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Inside:  **5** What is the best way to choose your wife?  **11** Ramadhan Page  **12** Yemen's Big-time Nuclear Fraud 

Red Sea volcano death toll rises

By: Almigdad Dahesh Mojali

SANA'A, October 1 — Six soldiers have been confirmed dead since an eruption of a volcano occurred on September 30 on a tiny island in the Red Sea, authorities have said. Fifteen soldiers were also injured and are now treated in a military hospital in Al-Hudeida province. Two soldiers are still missing and presumed dead.

A team from the coast guards authorities in Aden governorate went to the Jabal Al-Tair Island, 140 kilometers off Yemeni coast, to participate in searching and rescuing soldiers in the island. A Canadian warship, HMCS Toronto, has also helped Yemeni rescue teams.

Ken Allen, Canadian navy spokesman, said the island was "aglow with lava and magma as it pours down into the sea".

"The lava is spewing hundreds of feet into the air, with the volcanic ash also 1,000 feet in the air," he added.

Dr. Ismail Al-Janad, head of Geologist Survey Authority, said the volcanic eruption is about to vanish. He added that there is no fear of extending the volcanic eruption to the near islands.

The Ministry of Oil and Minerals announced that it recorded several light earthquakes before and after the volcano erupted. Geologists have linked the volcano to the earthquakes.

"The Earthquake Observation Center (EOC) recorded many light earthquakes on Sunday evening that coincided with the eruptions in Jabal Al-Tair Island," said Khalid Bahah,



The volcano eruption in its first hours

Minister of Oil and Minerals.

General director of the EOC, Jamal Shelan, said his centre recorded three earthquakes around the island between latitude 15.98 and longitude 42.16 with strength between 4.3-4 on Richter scale. The earthquakes were about six kilometers deep.

Jabal Al-Tair consists of volcanic basalt layers and its mountain, which is about 1,200 metres high, has an oval shape. The island is considered one of the most modern ridges of volcanic areas in the Red Sea.

According to Al-Janad, the volcano erupted twice, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Al-Janad

clarified that one of the most important rocky components of the island is the basalt lava with different shapes of shells integrated with gas. He considered that one of the factors that caused the volcanic burst.

She'elan mentioned that the area is usually exposed to such kind of earthquakes as a result of its location in the middle orbit of the Red Sea bottom. He said most of the indicators of earthquakes were in 1996.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh headed for Al-Hudeida province, and visited the injured soldiers. He asked a team of geologists to prepare a scientific practical study on the disaster.

Why did this 25 years old man die in prison?

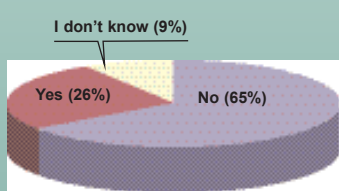


Hajar's family refused to take the dead body until an autopsy is being carried so as to know if he was exposed to physical torture during detainment. Mohammed bin Sallam reports on page 2.

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

In his speech on Saturday, president Saleh accused the opposition of not being able to win popular grounds, do you think this is true?



This edition's question:

Do you think it is true Hashem Hajar died in prison due to lack of medical care?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Another journalist attacked

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, October 3 — More than ten men attacked a Yemeni journalist on Tuesday, during his coverage of demonstrations at Freedom Square in Sana'a.

Sadam Al-Ashmori, who works as a freelance reporter for Yemen Times, as well as other Yemeni media, was beaten badly while on duty. He suspects the attackers are security men posing as civilians. In addition to being bashed and almost losing his left eye, the attackers took his camera.

"There were two rallies. I covered the first which accrued on front of the cabinet. Then I moved to the second site in near that area. As I took my position to take photos I saw several men wearing

civil clothes about to cut the microphone wires of the other protesters. When they saw me seeing them, they charged towards me. Three of them started the assault through taking the camera and kicking me in the stomach so that when I fell to the ground they twisted my arm behind



Saddam tells Yemen Times staff his story after receiving first aid. Dry blood visible on his face and shirt.

my back and I was elbowed on my back. That is when something sharp hit my head and I saw my blood on the floor," Al-Ashmori recalled.

The attackers left the reporter with a serious on his forehead where he got several stitches.

Although security and a police force was around they claim not to have seen anything.

The first rally was organized by Yemen Civil Organizations Collocation known as OMAM-NGOs which protested against the governmental securities arrest of civilians and old

soldiers in Al-Dhala, Abeen and Aden governorates early this month, while the second was by people supporting the recent constitutional reforms proposed by the president.

The two demos were organized in the same area, which is known as "Freedom Square" located in front of the Cabinet. Worth noting that during the last two months, human rights activists, and members of parliament, and even journalists were subjected to violence and attacks by unidentified individuals during such demonstrations at the "freedom Square".

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In brief

British Imperial Medal awarded to Yemeni citizen

Oct. 3 — Yemeni national, Taher Qassim, Chairman of Arab Center in the UK, Liverpool City, was awarded the British Imperial Medal for his unabated efforts to improve social, economic, educational and professional situation of the Arab communities as well as minorities in the UK, in addition to his participation in Liverpool preparations to be Europe's Culture Capital 2008. The medal is considered the highest medal has been granted to a foreigner from British government represented by Queen Elizabeth II.

Ibb

Immigrants' cases discussed

Oct. 3 — In a meeting, between the expatriates' ministry representative and the governor of Ibb, Ali Al-Gasei, the problems immigrants face were discussed. As a result of the meeting, the governor ordered to form a new sector to specialize on the immigrants cases. Al-Gasei also ordered the security administration to send the people who are involved in increasing the problems of immigrants to court.

Taiz

EC health support program

Oct. 3 — In a step to improve and evaluate health services, the European Commission of supporting health and population, is working on special preparations for infrastructure development in every district. The program, stemming from the Yemeni-European cooperation in the domain of health, is supported by the EC at a sum of 8 million. It was commenced in January 2007 and would be on up to December 2008.

Training on human rights and communication

Oct. 3 — Twenty-five teachers of basic education classes concluded last week training on "human rights and communication" organized by the Human Rights and Information Training Center (HRITC). The training workshop aimed at increasing the teachers' awareness of international human rights conventions and giving them skills on human communication.

A number of experts of human rights and communication gave the participants some lectures on human rights movement in the world and relevant conventions as well as principles of human communication.

Aden

Signing of MOU on residential societies project

Oct. 3 — The governor of Aden signed on Sunday a Memorandum of Understanding with the Malaysian Mina Holding Company in the Middle East and North Africa over establishing residential society's project in Aden. The memo includes readiness of the company to implement and finance 26 residential units to accommodate 40 thousand beneficiaries. The Aden Governor met with the head of the delegation of the Malaysian company and discussed the possibilities of financing and implementing this project.

Agreement to set up a heart center

Oct. 3 — An agreement to set up a heart center in Aden and General Hospital was signed on Sunday at the headquarters of Planning and International Cooperation Ministry. This project is considered the first to be financed by Saudi donations, estimated at \$1 million, pledged at the London Donors Conference which took place last November. Under the agreement, the Saudi Health Group and Al-Abbar Company for Health Construction would carry out rehabilitation of Aden General Hospital and set up the heart center. Furthermore, the planning minister noticed that 70 percent of the Saudi financial grant has been allocated for certain projects.

Prisoner of political conscious dies in prison while others at risk

By: Mohammed Bin Salam

SANA'A, Oct. 3 — Death of 25 year old prisoner of conscious in Yemeni jail has stirred a lot of concern among Yemeni and International human rights organization. Hashem Abdullah Yahya Hajar who was detained in June this year died inside the central prison last Sunday. His family claims he was not provided adequate health care despite his dire health problems.

Yemeni journalist Abdulkarem Al-Khaiwani who had been a cellmate with Hajar during Al-Khaiwani's imprisonment last month.

"He was in a terrible health state. I told the security that he needs help but they did not acknowledge my pleas," said Al-Khaiwani.

Hajar's family and lawyers accuse the prison authority for causing the death because of not taking his health problems seriously.

The medical report from the Kuwait University Hospital in Sana'a stated that he was suffering from chronic liver disease, hypertension, and congestive splenomegaly, and that he needed continuous supervision because of the risks associated with the necessary treatment. The report also advised that Hashem Abdullah Yahya Hajar needed rest and reduced stress.

Meanwhile, Minister of Justice has informed a delegation currently on a fact finding mission from Amnesty in International that there is "an ongoing investigation, and the state ensures medical health care for all its prisoners including those such as Hajar, Ba'oom and Al-Nouba".

Hassan Ba'oom and Nasser al-Nouba, are respectively held at al-Mukalla in south-east Yemen and Aden in the south of the country. Hassan Ba'oom, aged 66, is said to suffer from diabetes, hypertension, renal dysfunctions, and to have difficulty breathing difficulties; he had open heart surgery about one year ago. Nasser al-Nouba, a retired army brigadier in his 50s, is reported to suffer from heart disease and diabetes. He is reportedly allowed to take his regular medicine but need and as yet has been denied hospital

treatment.

"We are very concerned that other detainees with health problems are going to meet the same fate as Hajar. We have been informed that Ba'oom and Al-Nouba have not only been suffering from lack of medical care, but are also prevented from adequate food and family visits," said Dr. Lamri Chirouf researcher at Amnesty International Middle East Program who is here in Sana'a on a fact finding mission for the organization.

Chirouf along with AI researcher Mohammed Lotfy have met with several authorities and concerned organizations in order to collect information regarding the human rights situation in Yemen.

Death circumstances

Hashem Abdullah Yahya Hajar died at 5.00am on 30 September 2007, eight hours after the detaining authorities transferred him from the Central Prison to nearby Al-Thawrah Hospital in Sana'a. Hajar's family refused to take the dead body until an autopsy is being carried so as to know if he was exposed to physical torture during detainment, demanding the prosecution of the parties that refused to release him to receive medications.

The dead body is now in the Al-Thawra hospital in the capital city of Sana'a.

Hajar's lawyer said that he submitted a lawsuit, Sunday, on behalf of the detainee's relatives regarding the premeditation murder to lodged against the people they hold accountable for the death. These include chief of the penalty prosecution, Sa'eed Al-Ajel along with the head of the penalty unit, Sa'eed Al-Kata' and the director of Anti-terrorism unit, Hisham Al-Ghazali in addition to the head of the central prison in Sana'a where he was detained.

"I hold the head of the specialized penalty prosecution and the chief of the appealing unit in the court accountable for my brother's death, demanding the formation of impartial committee to investigate the issue," Hajar's brother said.

The lawyer, Abdull-Rab Al-

Murtadha considered it a premeditation committed by those.

He also pointed out that the head of the Penalty Unit ignored the release order made by the first penalty court. He refrained from submitting a copy of the order until they appealed before the appeal court. The lawyer was not allowed to attend the session during which the prosecution appeal concerning the release was held.

He said that the attorney general had made a written order to release Hajar but the head of the penalty prosecution Sa'eed Al-Ajel "refused to execute it deliberately". Before this Hisham Al-Ghazali had physically tortured Hajar though the situation is critical, the lawyer added.

Al-Murtadha resorted to the office of the attorney general, demanding the release of Hajar, "Due to the critical condition because the law justifies stopping the execution of penalty in this case. Hajar is still a suspect and the suspect is innocent until convicted," he said.

The accusation

Hashim Hajr, was detained on June 7, on charges of being involved with Al-Houthi rebels in the in Sa'ada war. The state also accused him along with his colleagues of forming a gang to carry out sabotaging acts exposing the community safety to jeopardy under the so called "Sana'a Cell" aiming at poisoning drinking water.

Hajar is not married. He descends from a middle class family living in Sa'ada city. He is studying in the faculty of Commerce, Department of Accountancy. He was thrown into prison while suffering from hepatitis disease. The specialized penalty prosecution as well as the administration of the central prison did not listen to warnings made by the human rights organizations such as the Yemeni Organization for Defending rights and democratic freedoms, coalition of the civil society organizations having prominent and leading organizations and syndicates. They were very worried about Hajar's condition, considering his treatment as an inhuman and



Hashem Abdullah Yahya Hajar when alive (inset) and in the morgue.

outrageous violation specially rules of human treatment, principles of human rights and provisions of law and constitution.

The first penalty court decided to release Hajar according to the medical report issued after three days of detainment. The prosecution however refrained from executing the decision, making an appeal before the specialized penalty unit.

Hajar went to the Yemeni authorities last June to meet his father's order to acquit him from involving in fighting with Houthis before included in the 19 persons. The authority claimed that these 19 persons including Al-Khaiwani formed Sana'a Cell.

During the last period, Hajar condition worsens, making Sana'a Cell inmates held hunger strike to demand medication. But the authority did not allow him to do so yet one hour before he died.

MP, Yahya Badr A. Al-Houthi, residing in Germany, expressed his sorrow over what he considered a premeditation crime against Hajar. In his letter, the Yemen Time received a copy of, he said, "We were informed about the martyrdom of Hajar, killed at the hand of malicious people, in the prisons of abhorred systems, claiming lives of

innocent people for 30 years. We still see and hear its bad deeds taking place in every span of our country."

He also said that the deceased detainee is like those detained in Sana'a. He is not guilty. The only thing they have they hate the current regime, leading to miserable conditions of citizens. Our county is poor, deteriorated suffering from diseases, feuds and separations.

"We affirm to all that he is not the only one killed by this regime. There are tens of people who martyred, tortured and hindered. The crime took place inside the prison, so the authority has not alternative but to admit that. We had made an agreement and a reconciliation with the system. The regime should present those criminals who killed Hashim before a fair and impartial court in order to execute retribution, releasing all the detainees, Yahya Al-Houthi concluded his letter.

The Amnesty International delegation will be returning to Yemen again in order to continue fact collecting. AI had investigated the file of the detainees of 1994 war, contributing to the release of hundreds of the people detained by the authority. They were affiliated to the YSP, Yemeni Socialist Party and other parties during and after the war.

Ali Nasser: From detention to another

He was an important man with Al-Qaeda who used to make Bin Laden's food. Ali Mohammed Nasser was arrested in 2001 and sent to Guantanamo Bay prison where he was detained for five years. Yet, after more than 16 months of nationality confusion, Nasser has finally returned to Yemen. Only he is again in detention with another four, indefinitely.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Oct. 3 — Ali Mohammed Nasser, was released from Guantanamo Bay prison four days ago only to be detained again at the Yemeni political security prison indefinitely. Nasser joined another four Yemenis who had been at Guantanamo until they were handed over by US security to Yemen over four months ago and are still detained at the political security prison.

"Either charge them or release them, keeping them this way is illegal by all national and international laws," said Khaled Al-Anisi executive director of Yemeni human rights organization known as HOOD. On 30 September, The Department of

Defense announced the transfer of eight detainees from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Six detainees were transferred to Afghanistan, and one each to Libya and Yemen. The names of the eight men were not released nor was the reason for their detention. The US defense department said these detainees became eligible for transfer following what the U.S. government calls, "a comprehensive series of review processes conducted at Guantanamo". It added that transfer is a demonstration of the United States' desire not to hold detainees any longer than necessary.

It wasn't confirmed that Nasser was the Yemeni detainee returned to Yemen until a delegation from Amnesty International confirmed the government's statement last week that detainee

Ali Mohammad Nasser has returned to Yemen. Nasser's nationality had been in question prior to his return to Yemen as he was born in Saudi Arabia and has family in Jeddah. Dr. Lamri Chirouf and Mohammad Lotfy of AI who are currently in Yemen met with three of the five detainees at the political security prison yesterday, Oct 3 and confirmed they are in good health and are not subjected to bad treatment while in Yemeni prisons.

"The previous four had been allowed visits from their family every week. However we don't know if the latest comer has any visitors yet," said Lotfy.

Minister of Justice promised their cases will be investigated post Eid holidays which will be mid October. So far there are no particular accusations and the detainees are in prison without being charged of anything.

Nationality confusion

May 18, 2006, was the day scheduled

for Nasser to leave Guantanamo. At that time, U.S. military classified him as Saudi, as he was born in Saudi Arabia. However, Saudi government said despite he was born in KSA, Nasser does not hold the Saudi passport. Because of his parents being from Yemen, Nasser was finally acknowledged as Yemeni. He also holds a Yemeni passport, grew up in Yemen and it was here where went to school.

Nasser confessed that when was eight-year old, he traveled to Afghanistan, where he worked as a cook for the Taliban. In 2001, and during the American attack on Afghanistan, he escaped to Pakistan where he was arrested and handed over to US military. Nasser who was described in US newspapers as the Yemeni with curly black hair, remained stuck in "a limbo of mistaken identities, bureaucratic inertia and official neglect". It wasn't until a few days ago that he was released and joined other X-Guantanamo detainees in Yemen.

"It's a crime and against the Yemeni law to put people in custody for more than forty eight hours without charges," said lawyer and human activist Ahmed Arman. He referred to the other four Yemeni Gitmo's returnees who arrived Yemen on June and are still in prison without charges or trail.

They are Fwaz Noman Mahdi, Ali Muhssen Saleh, Hani Abdo Musleh Shulan, and Saqdk Mohammed Said. In 2005 and 2006 Yemen received several Yemeni citizens from the Guantanamo Bay Prison and put some of them on trial. None were charged with terrorism-related activities. Yemen is the country with the most prisoners at Guantanamo: The figure is 97. So far only 13 of the original 107 have been returned.

Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi Minister of Foreign Affairs insisted that Yemen wants its citizens back from Guantanamo, despite US presidential statements a few months ago that said otherwise.

First ever exhibition of business logos in Yemen

The importance of Business Logo was highlighted during a unique exhibition of Business and Companies Logo by Nafees for organizing exhibition in Hotel Sheraton Sana'a.

This event was sponsored by Ministry of Trade and Supported by General Investment Authority. Jotun Paints, Bin Thabet Corporation and MTN were the main sponsors of this first ever exhibition, which brought out the creativity of Mr. Moiz Ismail Nafees - a Yemeni craftsman endowed with a special skill of wood carving.

The objective of this exhibition was to educate the Yemeni businessmen on creating their unique identity in the market with their brand logos. A seminar on these lines was addressed by Mr. Salah Al Attar the president of GIA and



From this year onwards every year there will be an exhibition for Business Logos in Yemen

Mr. Rami Khaleel a highly renowned expert on graphic design, during the opening ceremony. The Vice Minister of Trade, Mr. Iqbal Bahadur along with Vice Mayor Mr. Mohammed Al Amri participated in the inauguration function.

The exhibition was a grand success with over 76 companies taking part and attracting audiences in large numbers to view this special event. Each participant's logo was specially carved out from wood and mounted and displayed on designer panels and stands. The audience was impressed by the creative idea in which each logo was presented and witnessed the craftsmanship and creative potential of Yemeni artists and craftsman - Mr Moiz Ismail.

This exhibition also provided a plat-

form for businessmen from different fields of trade and industry to meet and interact together, thereby developing a bond of friendship and mutual growth. They also had an opportunity to learn the nuances of designing their logos and also protecting them with copyrights and trademarks laws.

The exhibition ended with awarding the best logo engraved by an expert panel of judges and through the audience poll. The first award was presented to Al Zahra Stationery, followed by Haraz Steps to health and Yemen Digital Media. The awards were presented by renowned Yemeni artist Mr. Amna Nuseri, Mr. Mazhar Nizar, Mohammed Al Sa'ee and Mr. Rami Khaleel.

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Bhutto says talks with Musharraf stalled

By: Mark Trevelyan

LONDON (Reuters) - Pakistan's former prime minister Benazir Bhutto said power-sharing talks with President Pervez Musharraf were "totally stalled" as her party met on Wednesday to consider resigning from parliament.

Bhutto, who plans to return to Pakistan on October 18 after eight years of exile, accused the military leader of failing to deliver on promises of a return to democracy.

She said her Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), the largest opposition faction, would decide at talks in London whether to resign from parliament and

provincial assemblies which are expected on Saturday to re-elect Musharraf as president.

"The Peoples Party is not in the business of saving military dictatorships. We want to save democracy," Bhutto, 54, told reporters.

"Either today or tomorrow we are taking the decision whether, prior to the presidential elections, we should resign from the assemblies in protest at the inability of the Musharraf government to move towards the restoration of democracy in Pakistan."

The PPP is not in a position to stop Musharraf's re-election but could damage the credibility of the election

process if it boycotted the vote.

More than 80 opposition members of parliament have resigned in protest against his standing for re-election while army chief. Musharraf has vowed to step down as head of the military before being sworn in for a new presidential term, and on Tuesday named a former intelligence chief to take the post.

"Disinformation campaign"

Musharraf's government said corruption charges against Bhutto relating to her two terms in power would be dropped. But Bhutto said her party had checked with the presidency and found this was not the case.

"This is just a typical disinformation campaign by the present regime," she said.

Musharraf, leader of the only nuclear-armed Islamic nation, is seen by the United States as a key partner in the war on terrorism. U.S. intelligence officials have voiced concern that al Qaeda is rebuilding its strength in remote tribal areas along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Bhutto said extremism was growing. "The longer the military regime continues in this fashion, the more anarchic the situation becomes," she said. "I am afraid we are heading for a situation which could lead to street agitation."

She said that, despite pledges from Musharraf in the power-sharing talks to introduce democratic reforms, "on the ground, nothing has changed from nine months ago".

Among the PPP's demands are a removal of the ban on anyone serving a third term as prime minister, which would disqualify Bhutto. A parliamentary election is due by mid-January.

Bhutto said there had been no movement on this and other issues, despite promises from Musharraf.

"He's not prepared to give a level playing-field," she said before entering the small, terraced London house where dozens of PPP members, most of them having flown in from Pakistan, had earlier gathered for the talks.



Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto speaks at a news conference, London September 1, 2007. Talks with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf aimed at reaching a power-sharing deal are "totally stalled", the country's former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said on Wednesday.

Olmert and Abbas meet about conference

By: Jeffrey Heller

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - The Israeli and Palestinian leaders convened on Wednesday to instruct their negotiating teams to draft a document that will serve as the foundation for a Middle East conference on Palestinian statehood.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is under cabinet pressure not to give ground on sensitive issues and is seeking a broadbrush joint statement for the U.S.-sponsored international gathering expected to convene in mid- to late November.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas wants an explicit "framework" agreement with a timetable for final-status talks on issues such as borders, the future of Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees, and for implementing any statehood accords.

Olmert and Abbas convened for a one-on-one meeting at the Israeli leader's residence in Jerusalem and

were to be joined later in the session by the two drafting teams, officials on both sides said.

Abbas negotiator Ahmed Qurie said the Palestinians would "exert maximum effort" to complete the document ahead of the conference. "We'll see if this will be possible. It will not be easy," he told Reuters.

A senior Israeli official concurred: "Smooth negotiations will not happen."

Israeli and Palestinian officials said the leaders would for the first time give their negotiating teams instructions on how to proceed, setting parameters for talks on key issues.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice plans to return to the region in about two weeks to assess the pace of conference preparations, officials said.

The conference, expected to be held in Annapolis, Maryland, is part of a U.S.-led effort to bolster Abbas and his West Bank-based government and to isolate Hamas Islamists who seized control of the Gaza Strip in June.

Israel has released close to 90 Palestinian prisoners, most of them members of Abbas's Fatah faction, this week as a goodwill gesture. Abbas's office said more needed to be done.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said in Gaza the Olmert-Abbas meetings were aimed at ensuring "fundamental Palestinian issues" would not be addressed.

It was unclear to what extent Olmert was prepared to delve deeply into the "final-status" matters with a Palestinian leader who holds sway only in the West Bank.

Olmert has been weakened politically by corruption scandals and criticism of his handling of last year's war in Lebanon.

Olmert hosted Abbas in a Sukkah, an outdoor enclosure which observant Jews use for meals marking the Sukkoth festival. A Sukkah is used to commemorate the biblical story of how Jews came to the Holy Land from Egypt after a 40-year desert sojourn.

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Yemenia اليمنية

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The program Support Unit (PSU) of the above mentioned program - consisting amongst others of two expatriate resident consultants - which is being implemented under the responsibility of the minister of public Health and Population is looking for a:

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What is the best way to choose your wife?

In some communities in Yemen and as a result of the underdeveloped customs and traditions, the female relative of the man is responsible for choosing the suitable wife for him. In spite of few successful marriage experiences conducted this way, many other marriage experiences proved that this way of selecting wives is wrong as the couple don't know many things about each other, and that they understand each other only after the marriage. Consequently, new generation try to change such traditions. *Interviews by: Almigdada Dahesh Mojali Dahesh95@yahoo.com*

Abdullah Al-Najdi, 48,
"Making others choose your wife was effective in the past, but I think that was wrong. One should choose his wife himself. In the past what was important for us is a woman's beauty, ability to do housework, and her family ancestry. But now a good wife has to be educated and mind-illuminated to take care of the children. Not only that, the couple should know each other well before marriage."

Ahmed Al-Jabri, 42
"In my opinion, a mother or sister will not deceive a male relative when choosing a wife for him. The man will explain to them the characteristics he wants to be available in the woman he dreams of. Then they can look for a suitable one and then the man can decide."

Aum Akram Al-Ja'adabi, 51
"I don't like to choose a wife for my son because I don't want to put myself in problems in case they don't live in harmony. I prefer to let him choose his wife but the problem is in our norms and traditions, where the two sexes can't talk or even see each other. So, how can he choose?"

Mohsen Al-Olufi
"It is better to let women choose a woman that would be your wife because women know women. My

mother chose my wife who is a very good woman. I have lived with her for 35 years peacefully and happily."

Abdulrahman Al-Nehmi, 47
"My sisters chose my wife. At that time I didn't know anything about her except for her name. There was no any relation between us before marriage. We never even talked to each other before we got married. I think that love and intimacy come after the married life, not before marriage because you can't love someone you don't know."

Khalid Jameel, 45
"I can admit that anyone prefers to choose his wife himself. It is much better than depending on relatives because you are the one who will get married from this girl not your relatives. Also, if the girl admires your mother, she will describe the woman to you and you depict an image in your mind. I wish I could choose my wife myself; I could have known everything about here from the very beginning."

Mohammed Al-Sanhani
"It is a very big mistake to let others choose man's future wife. If you want to buy a cow, definitely, you need to see it and check it. What about one's wife who is will be a partner for the whole life?"

Jamal Obaid, 47
"I think that the main problem is in the norms that prevent us from seeing and talking to the girl we would marry. The mind can never accept it. Marriage is the most important stage in our life. It is incredible. We have to change these underdeveloped and blind norms because they aren't mentioned in the holy Quran."

Many youths nowadays refuse to let others choose their wives though some prefer that way. Most of those who prefer to choose their wives themselves are the well-educated people.

Esam Al-Hamdani, 22, university student
"I don't accept to let my relatives choose my wife. I choose her myself, ask about her and her family reputation, and once I'm convinced I tell my family about it."

Jameel Al-Ansi, 25
"Choosing wife is absolutely a private matter and the boy is the one who chooses his own wife. The couple should know and agree on everything before marriage to avoid future problems. I think that all the problems that couple face after marriage are because of differences in points of view and if they agree on everything before marriage, no problems will happen after marriage."

Younis Al-Harazi, 24, secondary school graduate
"Since I can't talk to girls because of our norms and traditions, it is difficult for me to choose my wife. As a result, I let my mother and sisters choose for me. The problem is in our norms and traditions which must be changed."

Hani Abdulqader, 25
"I can't imagine that I will not see or talk to my wife before marriage. It is impossible. If you will buy a cow or



A batch of fresh female graduates from Sana'a University's Faculty of Languages.. A lot of men don't prefer educated women as wives. **YT PHOTO**

any thing else, you never buy it before you see it. Really, it is a kind of stupidity to let others choose one's wife. I respect our norms and tradition but we all have to work to change them. We should think again and re-evaluate our norms and traditions."

In the southern districts of Yemen like Taiz, Aden, Lahj, the boy usually chooses his wife himself and in case he can't talk to her before the engagement, he has the right to talk to her after the engagement freely.

Annan Mohammed, 27
"Choosing wife by the boy himself is the right way because when the couple talk to each other and discuss their matters, they will be able to judge whether they will be in harmony in the

future or not. Consequently, they will avoid failed marriage."

Abdulraheeb Al-Kobati, 45
"In our districts, we allow the couple to talk to each other especially after the engagement because it is really incredible for a man to know his wife for the first time only on the day of wedding."

Elham Abdu Mothana, 25
"I knew my husband and talked to him after the engagement. We discussed everything and drew a plan for our life and now we live peacefully. It isn't shame to talk to the fiancé."

Samerah Ahmed, 28
"These cursed norms must be changed. I had never known my husband before marriage. My family and relatives told

me he was the best partner. But when we got married I discovered many differences. He asked me to do many things I'm not used to doing at my parents' house and this makes me live in a hell."

Um Iqbal, 21
"The girl should talk to her fiancé after the engagement not before. When I'm engaged, I need to know everything about the man who will marry me. I want to know my responsibilities and privileges before marriage. Our norms harm girls more than boys. If the man doesn't agree with his wife, he can divorce her and get married again. But when the girl doesn't live in harmony with him, she has one of two destroying choices: whether to ask for divorce or to live in a hell with him."

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION
HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT (HRSP)- CR NO. 3625
CREDIT ADMINISTRATION UNIT (CAU)

Announcement for National Consultants on

DEVELOPING AN INFORMATION & TRAINING MANUAL ON NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNT FOR HEALTH POLICY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) within the Ministry of Public Health & Population intends to hire an individual consultancy who will be contracted to carry out the following tasks:

Objective of the Consultancy

The consultant is expected to develop a Information & Training Manual on National Health Accounts designed to be used on the Governorates Level. The consultant will be accountable to the Head of the Credit Administrative Unit and Director General of the Health Policy Unit.

Proposed Tasks of the Consultant

The consultant is expected to carryout the following activities and/or responsibilities, which include but will not be limited to:

- Design a framework for the "Information & Training Manual for National Health Accounts" designed for the National & Governorate levels. The framework and index of the manual should be shared and approved before carrying-out further work.
- To review and build upon preliminary manuals that has been developed by local experts supported by (WHO) and the (Health System Partners-USAID).
- Review related international training and informational manuals and inn particular the (Guide for Developing National Health Accounts-Produced by the WB/USAID/WHO) and the manual developed by the Yemen Health partners project (Abt Associates/USAID).
- Carryout related field visits to governorates and central level to get acquainted with the local health finance systems; its structure and dynamics.
- Develop the "Information & Training Manual for National Health Accounts" designed for the National & Governorate levels in Arabic language. The manual is to the pre-tested with a chosen governorate health office team before finalization.

Duration of the assignment

- The expected time to finish the work is six weeks.

Expected Deliverable

- Draft Report will be submitted to CAU for approval by Health policy & Technical Unit.
- Submit to the CAU the final Report Original in the form of hard copies (2 Copies) as well as an electronic soft copy (2 Copies).

Required Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

- A university degree in Economics / Finance or a degree in Health Economics / Health Care Finance.
- Previous experience in similar development of training manuals, preferably in the area of Economics or Finance.
- Capability to carry out related fieldwork activities.
- Verbal and written capability in Arabic Language and preferably in English Language.

Application with supporting document and CV's - should be submitted to the credit Administration unit by 20th October 2007 to the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a.

Tel: 00 967 1 252224 - Fax: 00976 1 251622 - Email:hrsp@y.net.ye

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION
HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT (HRSP) - CR NO. 3625
CREDIT ADMINISTRATION UNIT (CAU)

Announcement for National Consultants on

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE REVIEW FOR HEALTH POLICY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) within the Ministry of Public Health & Population intends to hire an individual consultancy who will be contracted to carry out the following tasks:

Objective of the Consultancy

The consultant is expected to conduct a Public Health Expenditures Review (PER) study for the fiscal years (2004-2005), and producing a study report. The consultant will be accountable to the Head of the Credit Administrative Unit and the Director General of the Health Policy Unit.

Proposed Tasks of the Consultant

The consultant is expected to carry out the following activities and/or responsibilities, which include but will not be limited to:

- Further develop a framework of the Public Health Expenditures Review study; a draft-guiding framework of public expenditure is provided to facilitate the required assignment. The framework will define the objective, scope and desired outcomes of the review, and would act as a reference document guiding the process.
- Review previous consultancy services Public Health Expenditure Review (1998) and (1999-2003), and accordingly develop an updated framework.
- Identify, review and analyze existing financial data for the fiscal years (2004-2005) based on the framework.
- Report on main findings of the review process and subsequently develop policy recommendations based on the above analysis.
- Produce a report on Public Health Expenditure Review (PER 2004-2005) in both Arabic and English languages with policy recommendations of fiscal adjustments, expenditure prioritization and resource allocation and budgeting. The report will include an analysis of financial trends and future expectations.
- Carry out related field visits as well as meetings and interviews with related institutions to gather essential review information.
- To present the findings of the review to the senior public health officials and interested parties in a workshop organized after the completion of the consultancy.

Duration of the assignment

- The expected time to finish the work is two months.

Expected Deliverable

- Draft Report will be submitted to CAU for approval by Health Policy & Technical Unit.
- Submit of the CAU the final Report Original in the form of hard copies (2 copies) as well as an electronic/soft copy (2 copies).

Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

- A university degree in Economics / Finance or a degree in Health Economics / Health Care Finance.
- Previous experience in similar analytical studies, preferably in the area of Health Economics or Health Care Finance
- Capability to carry out related fieldwork activities.
- Verbal and written capability in Arabic Language and preferably in English Language.

Applications with supporting document and CV's should be submitted to the Credit Administration Unit by 20th October 2007 to the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a.

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Government not wise in dealing with Qaeda elements

By: Ezzat Mustafa

Regarding measures of Yemeni security for hunting Qaeda elements in the country, there are two major possibilities, the first of which is that the government forces are unable to control their fists and fill the gaps between their fingers where mercurial people like the Qaeda elements pass through. The other possibility is that the authorities may release them voluntarily but retain them twisted to their fingers in order to recall them whenever they want.

Last August, Qasim Al-Raimi, who is nicknamed Abu Hurreira Al-Sana'ani, managed to escape death at the hands of Yemeni Counterterrorism Forces that besieged him with infantry troops backed by fighter jets. Al-Raimi was accompanied by four of his fellows in an area lying between Al-Jawf and Marib governorates. The five Al-Qaeda suspects confronted extensively trained and specialized troops, who caught four of them except for Al-Raimi who escaped mysteriously.

A few days later, the authorities said that they arrested a number of the Qaeda elements involved in the Marib blast that targeted the Spanish tourists. The official sources identified neither the exact number of those arrested nor their names, however, informed sources in Modya district in Abyan confirmed that Al-Qaeda suspects fled after they learned that the security forces were raiding the houses where they had been hiding. The security personnel arrested only a few locals of those inhabiting in the raided area. After the operation, the government didn't release any comment on the operation that ended at this point while the escapees were hiding in nearby

mountains.

Al-Wasat weekly newspaper recently reported that six Qaeda elements escaped from a political security jail in February 2006 to be then harbored and protected by Sheikhs of Waela Tribe in Sa'ada governorate. According to the newspaper, President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave the tribal sheikhs two options: whether to hand over the six fugitives to the government or a military operation will be launched on the area in order to capture the wanted suspects.

Except for Hamza Al-Quaiti, Mohammed Sa'eed Al-Umda, Ibrahim Howaidi and Hezam Mujalli, the released Qaeda members are the most dangerous ones. Qasim Al-Raimi (Abu Horeirah Al-Sana'ani) is considered the Spokesman of the Qaeda Organization in Yemen, as well as the top suspect charged with plotting the Marib car bombing that killed eight Spaniards.

According to Al-Raimi's statements, he is always in direct contact with Naser Al-Wahaishi (Abu Baseer), who appointed himself a leader for the organization in Yemen. Although this man is dangerous, the most hostile from among the three people is Jamal Al-Badwi about whom we heard nothing since he fled one year and seven months ago. He is a mercurial man since he machinated the jailbreak of the Qaeda elements who tunneled out of the Aden political security prison on April 11, 2003, but later on the security authorities managed to recapture him. He was then thrown in the Sana'a political security prison, which is surrounded by heightened security measures and has an excessive presence of personnel in the compass. It has been very clear that Al-Badwi was the main plotter of the Qaeda fugitives who fled the most famous intelligence detention in the capital city

of Sana'a last year like he did before in Aden.

Al-Badwi is the top suspect in the two biggest terrorist operations, which Al-Qaeda carried out in Yemen, the first of which is the U.S. Cole Destroyer Bombing off Aden shore in October 2000 and the second is bombing the French Supertanker Limburg in Al-Dhuba Port in Hadramout in 2002.

The man was sentenced to fifteen years in prison after the sentence was reduced from death in an appeal tribunal in 2005. He is also one of the top wanted terrorists by the U.S. Administration that filed against him as many as fifty charges before a federal court in New York. In addition, the U.S. Administration declared a \$5 million prize for anyone who gives information that leads to the capture of Al-Badwi.

The Yemeni government did not comment on the story, which Al-Wasat Weekly published and if it is correct and authentic, Jamal Al-Badwi will be the seventh man having no relation with the six people, who is harbored and protected by Waela tribes. The government hasn't yet launched an offensive against the area to arrest the wanted terrorists while the newspaper reported that tribal leaders of the area agreed to refrain from handing over the suspects to the government.

Furthermore, the Yemeni newspaper didn't mention how long the suspects have been harbored by sheikhs, nor did it report that these suspects are part of the group that was besieged in Abyan but managed to escape.

There are several matters that raise numerous questions regarding the Qaeda Organization in Yemen and the fact that some of them resorted to settle in Abyan governorate, the stronghold of Aden-Abyan Islamic Army, may help lead to a better understanding

between the two terrorist organizations even after Aden-Abyan Islamic Army quit Al-Qaeda and chose Abyan as an area for plotting its operations.

Not all the Qaeda fugitives are hiding in the same place. The Yemeni government should deal wisely with their capture, particularly after the Qaeda Network blamed the government for deliberately liquidating fugitives and not arresting them. The network disclosed that the murder of Fawaz Al-Rabie and Mohammed Al-Dailami in a single operation in early October 2006 is evidence of the authorities' excessive use of force against the Qaeda elements. It added that it was possible for the government to arrest them and not to kill them. Similarly, the Qaeda member Yasser Al-Homaiqani, was murdered later and this forced the organization to escalate its terrorist operations in Yemen, which culminated with the murder of Spanish tourists.

The jailbreaks perpetuated by Qaeda elements is not a strange thing, as the organization has been training its elements since the early 1980s on how to make tunnels and escape jails. It has been disclosed earlier that the plotter of September 11 Terrorist Attacks on the U.S. is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who was trained in Japan for three months in 1987 on how to make tunnels. After a while, he left Japan for Afghanistan carrying with him 150 instruments that were used for the same purpose. Now, Mohammed seems to be unable to flee while being detained by the U.S. Authorities that received him from the Pakistani authorities following his capture in March 2003. On the contrary, Al-Qaeda elements in Yemen managed to escape twice from two detentions surrounded by heightened security.

Source: *Eleph.com*

COMMON SENSE

Yemen needs to be prepared for unforeseen calamities

That a volcano can suddenly erupt in the uninhabited island of Abu Tair in the Red Sea with a number of troops valiantly there guarding the territorial integrity of our country in a very hostile environment for normal human life is proof that Government has failed in insuring that sufficient knowledge exists of our environment and ecological surroundings. What is also not clear is how many troops were actually in the island and how many actually died, are missing or wounded? It is imperative that the Government determines how geologically safe is the country from further volcanic activities that could prove to be catastrophic, if some of the hundreds of dead volcanoes that abound in the Republic of Yemen decide (by the Dictate of the Al-Mighty) to erupt. Surely, after the minor eruption that occurred on Friday, according to the Ministry of Defense Bulletin, serious efforts should have been undertaken to remove the garrison or whatever contingent of troops was stationed on the island.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Why our troops should be subjected to death by an enemy that has warned of its volatile nature beforehand is perplexing indeed and why the Yemeni public should not be given the full information about this natural calamity is another mystery worth contemplating about.

One should not expect our valiant troops to be lost or sacrificed because of the unforgivable neglect of their superiors. This would be the second time that our troops have been subjected to needless harm while valiantly guarding our territorial extremities. The first time was when the Eritrean Government attempted to regard itself as a colonial power and sought to expand its territorial reaches to as far as its ambitions will take it when Eritrean troops occupied the Island of Hunnish and drove out our poorly equipped and almost abandoned garrison on the island, which was unable to deter this act of aggression. This was because the mainland failed in providing the garrison with the needed air and naval support, which should have been prepared and able to overwhelm the more inferior equipped Eritreans when it comes to air and sea power. Needless to say there was an obvious weakness in the intelligence gathering capability of our armed forces which one hopes has now been corrected significantly.

Thank God, the matter over Hunnish was settled amicably, but the attack on Hunnish proved how indefensible the territorial integrity of Yemen is, notwithstanding all the hundreds of millions – if not billions – spent on equipping and arming our armed forces. Having said that about our poor ability to safeguard our territorial integrity and to ensure that our troops are prepared to meet any hostile enemy efforts to test our defense capabilities, one is even more flabbergasted by our inability to evacuate our helpless troops in the wake of natural foreseeable natural calamities with advanced warning already given by the Lord Al-Mighty, which apparently our Ministry of Defense failed to take heed of erroneously. Thus a still unknown number of our brave troops lost their lives because of insufficient alertness at the mainland that failed to take the drastic action to evacuate our troops, when they had two days to do so.

When one sees the immense amount of military capability that is unleashed against the people on the mainland of the country at times, the observer cannot help but wonder why is it that where military capability is most needed, which is in the open and apparently weakly guarded periphery, there are severe shortcomings to be realized, even if the threat is from a natural calamity.

It is not difficult to realize that we are very much unaware of how much latent danger lies underneath the ground, especially when we sit on a critical spot on the biggest tectonic plate on Earth, which makes up the continent of Asia. The Earthquake of December 1982 that hit Dhamar and continued to have aftershocks for several days thereafter, should have awakened the Government to undertake the geological studies that insure that we have all the information we need to understand our geological environs and to insure that our development plans incorporate the possibility that we can face up to any possible dangers from the subsurface. But it seems that in Yemen, we will continue to learn the hard way. But we are definitely learning more and more about the ineptitude of our Government above the surface, in the mainland and on the offshore territorial extremities of our beloved homeland. Where is the relief? Only God Al-Mighty knows.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

Together to restore a smile to cancer sufferers

By: Mohammed Al-Ariqi

A child under age 4 was carried by his father. Although cancer had consumed most of his body, the child was still using his remaining energy to play with a small toy that produces the sound of birds whenever he moves it. He then breathes with difficulty and tries to catch his father's ear in an attempt to draw his attention to the sound produced by his toy.

The child hasn't yet realized that he is infected with blood cancer and has cost his father a lot of money. The treatment has made him weary while carrying him from one clinic to another and from one hospital to another.

Cancer doesn't only sadden and pain families of patients, but it makes anyone who sees a cancer-sufferer, be it a child, an adult, a man or a woman, feel the brutality and risk of such a malignant disease that consumes body of the sufferer. We are sorrowfully concerned over those infected with this disease at an early age.

Today, reports reveal terribly increasing scores of cancer patients while scientists are still exerting hard efforts to discover the effective medicine for the disease. Furthermore,

any available medicine for cancer is very expensive. The curious thing in this issue is any man, with harmful behavior and conduct, is responsible for opening the door for the penetration of cancer into his body consciously or unconsciously.

All the relevant reports agreed that chemical pesticides are primarily responsible for the proliferation of the disease. Who produces and uses these pesticides other than man? If excessive greediness and treachery forces man to produce and import these pesticides without taking into consideration the consequences of these products on innocent people. There are many people, specifically farmers, who use these pesticides negligently and randomly, thereby becoming the first victims.

Away from pesticides, habits and traditions constitute a gap for cancer to infect throats and gingivas of those who consume shamma (a milled product of tobacco). It infects throats and lungs of smokers while Qat opens the door for all the kinds of cancer to infect several parts of the human body such as the mouth, duodenum, stomach and intestines.

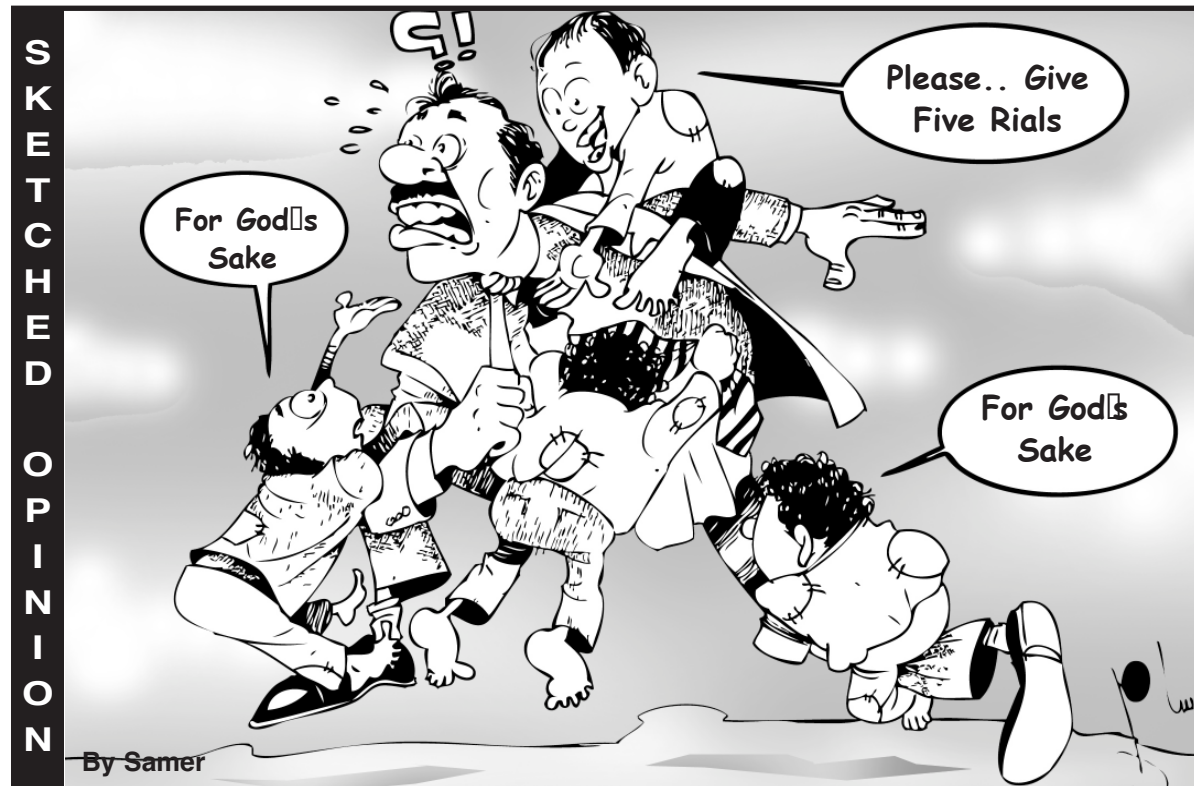
So, we are facing a great challenge that should be overcome with various efforts for fighting harmful habits and imposing tough procedures against

those who import and use pesticides. In addition, the official directives, particularly the ones given by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, have to culminate with supporting cancer treatment centers, as well as the human initiatives that left behind obvious fingerprints for reducing the suffering of cancer patients and their families. These initiatives were lavishly supported by Haj Abdulwase' Sa'eed Anam and Hayel Sa'eed Group Companies that played an integral role in establishing a national foundation for fighting cancer. The efforts expended by the philanthropist and his relatives reached fruitful results. They treated several cancer patients inside the country for free after families of patients suffered a lot trying to get enough money for the medical treatment abroad.

We pin a great hope in these serious steps, which the foundation has taken to open new centers in some Yemeni governorates in the months to come. Should there be any friendly reproach, it is on businessmen, philanthropists and social personalities who announced a few days ago their support for the Foundation for Fighting Cancer but haven't yet fulfilled their pledges until now. We say to them, "Please don't be extremely busy in earthly matters. This short life shouldn't shift

your attention away from charity and goodness. Restoring hope and smiles to any cancer patient takes you nearer and nearer toward Paradise that has what is unavailable during this short journey."

Source: *Al-Thawra State-run Daily.*



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The Mustab'sirin – Gaza's converts to Shi'ite Islam

By: Bassem Roomie,
The Media Line Ltd

The Internet forums of Palestinian Shi'ite and Umat A-Zahra (or the nation of Fatima Zahra, the daughter of Prophet Muhammad,) are sites secretly managed by groups of Palestinians who recently converted to the Shi'ite branch of Islam in the Palestinian territories.

It is believed the Palestinian *Mustab'sirin*, or visionaries – an expression given to the newly converted to the Shi'ite doctrine – live mainly in the Gaza Strip. These people are either Hamas or Islamic Jihad members, who have embraced the Shi'ite doctrine during trips to Iran.

They returned home as preachers to spread the Ja'afari doctrine – the school of Islamic jurisprudence followed by mainstream Shi'ites in Lebanon and Iran – among Palestinians living in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

Those who allegedly converted to Shi'ite doctrine include several Islamic leaders based in Gaza, such as Muhammad Shehada, Dr. Zuhair Ghazawi, and Dr. Dalal A-Sulti. But several Sunni figures have categorically dismissed such suggestions as fabrications aimed at encouraging people to convert.

It is a different situation in the

northern West Bank, mainly in Qalqilya, where several families, following the war in Lebanon last summer and taken with Hizbullah's charismatic leader Hasan Na'srallah and his group's "resistance" to Israel, converted to Shi'ite Islam.

Sunnis make up about 85 percent of the world's 1.4 billion Muslims, with Shi'ites living mostly in Iran and Iraq comprising the balance.

The 'Shi'itization', a term that also refers to Sunnis converting to Shi'ism, indicates that the strenuous Iranian efforts to widen their influence to the Palestinian scene have achieved some success and have managed to make significant headway in the Sunni-dominated Palestinian territories.

In the past two years Iran has developed strong ties with Hamas. For many observers, these close ties are manifesting themselves in the links between the Iranian leadership and the group's political bureau, based in Damascus and headed by hardliner Khalid Mash'al.

Iran is actively contributing funds to boost these ties. Hamas has used Iranian funds to pay wages to civil servants and members of its militia, as well as to construct military camps and to purchase weapons and explosives.

For many years Iran has given financial and ideological support to radical Palestinian groups, especially

Hamas and Islamic Jihad. But "the money was not a gift...It's not for free," according to Ibrahim Abu Jambou, a specialist in religious studies at Al-Aq'sa University in Gaza.

Recent reports estimate that Iran is committed to supporting Hamas with a subsidy of \$30 million a year, additionally training Hamas fighters in camps related to its revolutionary guard in Iran.

"They are expecting returns: a rise in influence among the Palestinians and compliance to their orders and political and religious agendas," says Abu Jambou.

The Hamas takeover of Gaza in mid June revealed the cooperation and coordination between Iran and the Islamic movement has become tighter and more pronounced.

Palestinians, as well as many moderate Arab regimes, especially the Saudis, believed that Iran was the mastermind behind Hamas' military 'coup' in Gaza to undermine the Saudi-sponsored Mecca deal last February that led to a short-lived unity government.

Although Iran and Hamas share a close vision for the region, Tehran wants to develop an ideological relationship with Hamas similar to that with Hizbullah in Lebanon. This ideological relationship will enable Iran to have the "final word" on everything



related to Palestinian political life and the nature of its relations with Israel, Abu Jambou says.

Since its Islamic revolution in 1979, Iran has made serious efforts to export its doctrine to Sunni-populated conflict areas, such as Algeria, Lebanon, Iraq, and eventually the Palestinian areas, Abu Jambou explains.

Many political and regional observers refer to the Iranian efforts as attempts to strengthen and expand the "Shi'ite axis," identified by American and some European commentators to include Syria, Lebanon and now the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

Doctrinally, Shi'ite Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad's family, the

12 Imams, are the prevailing sources of knowledge on the Quran and Islam. Sunni Islam, however, follows the teachings of Islamic caliphs who proclaimed their leadership after Muhammad's passing, but were not blood relatives of the prophet.

Source: The Media Line Ltd.

Towards a french sixth republic?

By: Hideaki Kaneda

The security environment since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States has clearly demonstrated the limits of the United Nations, or even the US as the world's sole military superpower, to maintain international security. However, like-minded mid-level powers with similar intentions could complement what the UN or the US lacks, effectively generating sufficient clout to stabilize the global security environment.

Japan, Australia, Germany, or Canada might be just such powers. They share common values as free and democratic

countries. Moreover, they are non-nuclear powers with no permanent seats in the UN Security Council. All are long time allies of the US. In fact, over recent years these countries have already had many opportunities to demonstrate their ability and willingness to contribute to international security if called for, for they all also share a recognition that global stability directly serves their own national interests.

Nevertheless, subtle differences among these countries may influence their bilateral cooperation or coordination with the UN or the US. As a result, they must compliment each other's advantages, characteristics, and interests in order to optimize their role in promoting international security.

For many years, Japan has been taking very cautious steps into this area, but substantial changes have occurred recently. In March 2007, Japan agreed to enter a "semi-alliance" with Australia, and issued a "Joint Communiqué on Japan-Australia Security Cooperation." In early June, the two countries' defense and foreign ministers held the first regular security meeting (the so-called "2+2 meeting") in Tokyo, agreeing to promote defense cooperation in various fields, including international security.

Under Japan's last two prime ministers, Japan has steadily been making practical contributions to the stabilization of the international security environment as a way to benefit its national

and international interests. Japan is thus helping to create conditions to allow mid-level powers to act jointly and effectively to provide an essential international "public good."

Such practical proposals address key global issues, including international terrorism, strengthening of mechanisms for arms control, arms reduction, and non-proliferation, efforts to contain attempts by North Korea and Iran to develop nuclear weapons, encouraging transparency in China's military, restraining Russia's imperial ambitions, and building a global ballistic missile defense network against missiles that could be launched by rogue regimes.

However, efforts to promote this kind of cooperation should not be confined

to these mid-level powers. There are many other potential mid-level democratic countries that should take part. Various approaches may be available for building a coalition of such powers, including the use of the UN and seeking to influence US foreign policy.

To advance such efforts, it may be necessary for mid-level powers such as Japan, Canada, Australia, and Germany to strengthen ties with other like-minded mid-level countries that possess nuclear weapons and hold permanent seats on the UN Security Council, such as the United Kingdom and France, or with smaller nuclear powers without permanent Security Council seats, such as India.

Once such a coalition gains a sure

footing, the next step would be to participate actively in the negotiation of major security issues, such as international arms control, arms reduction, and non-proliferation, while encouraging the involvement of China and Russia. The goal should be to build and exercise influence within the international community to the point that the coalition becomes tantamount to a permanent "sixth" member of the Security Council.

Hideaki Kaneda, a retired Vice Admiral and a former chief of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, is Director of the Okazaki Institute, Tokyo. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007. www.project-syndicate.org.

China's challenge to Latin America

Relations between China and Latin America and the Caribbean are paradoxical. While bilateral trade has increased and diplomatic relations have strengthened in the past few years, a lack of knowledge persists between the two regions, and in some cases tensions are growing. Hardly any major projects between China and Latin America have been initiated by the private, public, or academic sectors, and bilateral institutions do not yet reflect the weight of economic dynamics.

There are two aspects to this paradox. First, many Chinese enterprises – particularly in basic-goods sectors such as soy, meat, iron, steel, copper, and oil – have initiated activities in Latin America, either through direct investment or by buying products and/or businesses. To a lesser degree, Latin American enterprises – such as Gruma, Modelo, Embraer, Marco Polo, and Embraco – have successfully introduced themselves in China.

Even so, Latin America remains a secondary economic and commercial partner for China. In 2006, Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 3.7% of China's exports and 4.3% of its imports. But bilateral trade has been growing at impressive rates, with Chinese exports and imports up by 24.8% and 23.9%, respectively, from 1995 to 2006.

Indeed, for practically all of Latin America's countries, China is one of the ten main trade partners – and already in second place in several – with rates of growth well above total trade. Even in the Caribbean and Central American countries – several of which do not have diplomatic relations with China – commerce has been prolific.



By: Enrique Dussel Peters

Second, China's large-scale penetration of the United States and European Union markets has, in many cases, displaced Asian and Latin American competitors. In the case of the US, for example, Latin America's share of total imports, at roughly 17%, has not grown since 2000. In fact, major producers like Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico have seen their participation in US imports decrease, whereas China's increased to 16% in 2006, from 3% in 1990.

China represents a strong ideological challenge for the region, particularly for the *status quo* of economic policy promoted by the majority of multilateral institutions since the 1980's. China would seem to fit the profile of "the worst student who got the best job," with its GDP per capita growing – under "ideologically erroneous" conditions – 17.3 times faster than in Latin America from 1980 to 2005.

Contrary to most of Latin America, China's public sector is omnipresent, exercised through direct ownership or control of incentives in the private sectors. Nor has it liberalized labor and product markets, and it maintains strict control over the exchange rate and capital account. Likewise, it develops five-year plans – and in many cases, such as in science and technology, plans that exceed 15 years.

Even so, with its cheaper labor force and faster technological growth, China has attained higher export competitiveness than Latin America, several of which it has displaced in key sectors, such as thread and dry goods manufacturing, electronics, and furniture, since 2000. Whereas China exports manufactured products with an increasing level of technological inputs, Latin America continues to export basic goods with a minimum of added value.

China represents a massive challenge even for countries, such as Brazil, that have achieved a significant trade surplus up to now. So dividing Latin American countries into "winners" and "losers" makes no sense. Aside from importing basic goods, China exports manufactured goods throughout the region. According to the Brazil-China Business Council, Brazil will have its first trade deficit with China in 2007, despite growth exports of minerals and agricultural products. Central America and Mexico have been running bilateral deficits for years, with Mexico's import/export ratio in 2006 at 16:1.

Latin American countries would thus benefit from an open, non-ideological, and critical analysis of development experiences in the past few decades. They also need an effective rapprochement – going beyond diplomacy – that implies greater investment in bilateral institutions. Otherwise, relations between China and Latin America will be far from harmonious, even as their significance continues to grow.

Enrique Dussel Peters is Coordinator of the China/Mexico Studies Center at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, <http://www.dusselpeters.com>. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007. www.project-syndicate.org

The rise of Mid-Level powers

By: Raphaël Hadas-Lebel

PARIS – Nearly 50 years after the creation of the Fifth Republic by General Charles de Gaulle, Nicolas Sarkozy wants to change France's fundamental institutions. An expert council will send him its proposals by November 1.

Whereas British democracy is deeply rooted despite its supposedly "unwritten" constitution, and the US constitution has been amended only 26 times since 1787, France has redrafted its constitution 15 times since 1789. Only the Third Republic (1875-1940) lasted longer than the current Fifth Republic.

Established quickly in 1958 by de Gaulle in the midst of the Algerian crisis, the institutions of the Fifth Republic came under fire from the very first day. The antagonism that much of the left felt toward the Fifth Republic, which was tailored to fit de Gaulle's outsized figure, faded only in 1981, when François Mitterrand, one of de Gaulle's most vocal opponents, benefited from the power vested in the presidency.

Since then, a consensus has emerged in favor of the 1958 constitutional structure, because it has provided France with the strong executive it had always lacked. De Gaulle's constitution has also proved flexible enough to allow France to overcome several crises – Algeria, May 1968, de Gaulle's resignation, changes of government from right to left, and antagonism between left-wing presidents and right-wing prime ministers or vice-versa ("la cohabitation"), as occurred in 1986, 1993, and 1997.

But, despite a half-century of political stability, there is growing criticism of the Fifth Republic's institutional arrangements. Some blame the hybrid nature of de Gaulle's system for France's seeming political paralysis. Neither presidential (the prime minister is accountable to the National Assembly, whereas there is no accountability in a presidential regime) nor parliamentary

(the president is elected by direct suffrage and has significant power), the system has seen increasing periods of "cohabitation," which has generally proven inefficient.

Others believe that France's current institutions are the main, if not the only, cause of an emerging democratic crisis. Distrust of politicians is mounting, manifested in weak electoral turnout (except for the last presidential election), protest votes for extremist parties, and the state's inability to reform itself. All of these negative trends were symbolized by Jean-Marie Le Pen's success in reaching the second round of the 2002 presidential election.

Since the Fifth Republic was established, both French society and the world have undergone huge changes, with important consequences for the way the country is ruled. Globalization has reduced the state's freedom of action, and the European Union has gained in prominence.

Does this mean that a Sixth Republic is inevitable? As the president is already elected directly, some critics recommend a pure presidential regime, as in the United States. Others support moving toward a pure parliamentary regime in the manner of the United Kingdom.

But a presidential regime runs the risk of a stalemate between the executive and the legislature, and a pure parliamentary regime, such as existed in the Third Republic, has a track of failure in France. Nor does France seem ready to endorse a first-past-the-post electoral system, which gives governments strong parliamentary majorities, as in the UK.

Sarkozy seems to favor renovating the Fifth Republic. He likes the current system's strong presidential orientation, particularly since the presidential term was reduced from seven years to five, and is now closely timed to the legislative election cycle.

But Sarkozy also favors closer institutional links between the presidency and the parliament. For example, he would like to address the National Assembly once a year, which he

is currently barred from doing, given that only the prime minister is accountable to parliament. Similarly, he would like to impose a two-term limit on the president, and to require parliamentary approval of the president's appointment of certain senior officials.

Changes to correct the imbalance between presidential and parliamentary power are, indeed, needed. The legislature should have a greater say in setting the nation's agenda.

To strengthen this new institutional balance, Sarkozy is considering providing the opposition with a formal status, thus turning it into a real alternative power, and he wants to review the constitution's Article 16, which gives excessive power to the president in times of crisis. He is also weighing whether to change the current Constitutional Court into a Supreme Court to which citizens could appeal under some conditions, and whether to waive the president's authority to preside over the High Council of the Judiciary.

Nobody can forecast what will emerge from the expert council Sarkozy has appointed to consider these constitutional changes. The council's members represent both the majority and the opposition, and thus have very different views on these issues.

But, given that most of the public supports the main principles of the Fifth Republic – such as direct election of the president and a strong executive – any rebalancing of France's political institutions is unlikely to substantially alter the 1958 constitutional structure. Besides, any constitutional change would need to be endorsed by 60% of the ballots in both the National Assembly and the Senate, which makes the search for consensus all the more necessary.

Raphaël Hadas-Lebel, author of *101 Words about French Democracy*, is a member of the Conseil d'Etat and Professor at the Institut d'études politiques in Paris. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007. www.project-syndicate.org

VACANCY

Procurement Officer For the Basic Education Development Project (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the position of procurement officer. The procurement officer will report directly to the Project Director and will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project.

The Procurement Officer would:

i. Planning functions

- Preparing and updating the project procurement plan for each year of the project and ensure its distribution to all sectors/units involved in the project implementation.
- Itemizing and listing all goods required for the project, grouping goods in packages and determining the procurement method : ICB, NCB , IS, NS.
- Preparing and/or organizing and supervising the preparation of bidding documents and requests for proposals, and
- Working with relevant sectors in developing TORs for the selection of consulting firms.

ii. Procurement Process

- Preparing and ensuring the publication of specific and general procurement notices for goods, and requests for expressions of interest for consulting services.
- Ensuring that documents have received appropriate approvals in accordance with the development credit agreement (DCA).
- Systematically attending on behalf of the BEDP all bids opening, evaluation, and contracts award sessions and preparing minutes of bid opening and evaluation reports, in accordance with IDA guidelines.
- Preparing contracts and ensuring they are timely approved, signed and notified, in accordance with the procedures described in the procurement manual.

iii. Contract Management

- Inspecting and receiving goods, to ensure compliance with specifications and quantities with the purchase orders/contracts.
- Arranging for safe custody and the proper delivery of goods to the project institutions, if necessary, and installation in accordance with the contract and the target dates in the implementation schedules.

iv. Relevant Tasks

- Acting as a focal point for any dialogue on procurement management matters relating to the project as may be required by the project's financiers.
- Systematically reporting and updating the project's Management on the status of procurement activities and issues, and follow-up with MOE and other related ministries and institutions on procurement and other project's issues as may be required by the project's management.
- Contributing to quarterly financial monitoring reports.
- Ensuring that procurement procedures provided in the DCA are respected at all stages.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in commerce, business administration, engineering, or equivalent qualification.
- At least 3 years experience in a procurement management position.
- Familiarity with the government and IDA's procurement guidelines and procedures.
- Computers literacy and proficiency in both Arabic and English.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by Wednesday October 31, 2007 at the following address:

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60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad
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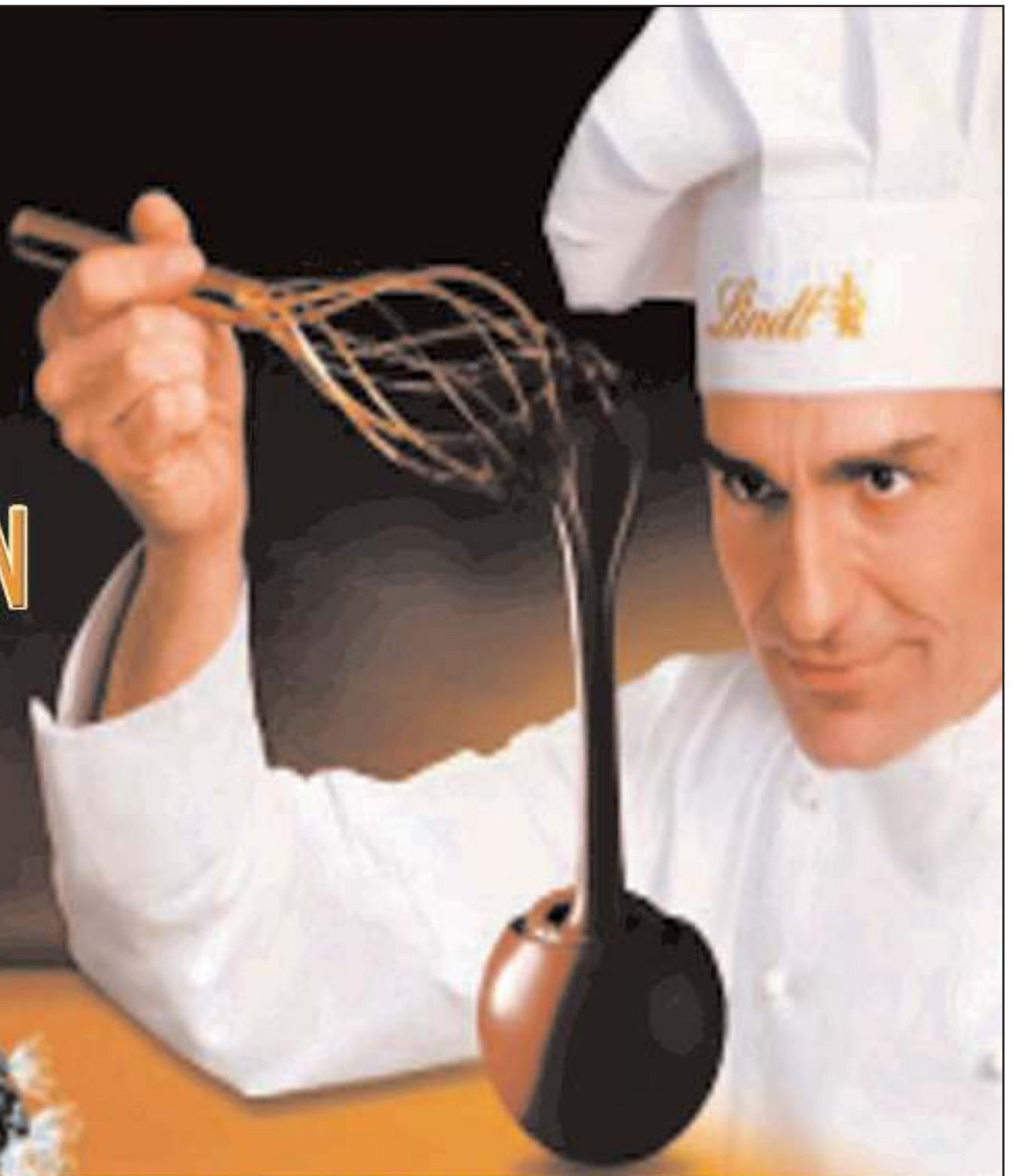
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By: Harun Yahya
www.harunyahya.com

Only Love Can Defeat Terrorism-6

Islam Commands People To Behave Gently

God has infinite compassion, and is forgiving, protective and gentle toward believers. The Compassionate and Merciful has placed all the blessings in the universe at Man's disposal, supporting him with messengers to reveal the true path. He directs all men to be His sincere servants by means of His revelations, each of which is a guidepost to that path. Our Lord is the Halim (the Clement), Adl (Lord of Infinite Justice), 'Afuw (the Pardoner), Asim (the Protector), Barr (the Source of All Goodness), Ghafir (the Forgiver), Hafiz (the Protector), Karim (the Generous One), Latif (the Subtle One), Muhsin (Lord of Infinite Kindness), Ra'uf (the Compassionate), Salam (the Author of Safety), Tawwab (the Acceptor of Repentance) and Wahhab (the Bestower).

Believers know that they are under our Lord's protection and are aware of His infinite goodness and kindness. For that reason, they are eager to become the kind of servants that are pleasing to Him, who merit His mercy, and Paradise. A Muslim behaves very gently, always treating others kindly. God has offered our Prophet's (may God bless him and grant him peace) gentle nature as an example to all believers (3:159):

It is a mercy from God that you were gentle with them. If you had been rough or hard of heart, they would have scattered from around you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them, and consult with them about the matter. Then when you have reached a firm decision, put your trust in God. God loves those who put their trust in Him.

That verse describes how our Prophet's (may God bless him and grant him peace) gentle, moral nature exerted a positive influence on people, whereby they grew even more devoted to him. The Qur'an gives the gentle natures of other loving prophets as role models. One verse (11:87) recounts how, when the Prophet Shuayb (peace be upon him) was sent to the people of Midian, they told him, "... You are clearly the forbearing, the rightly-guided!" The superior morality of the



Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) is another example for everyone. The Qur'an tells us that he was sensitive, gentle and full of love. The verses in question read:

Abraham would not have asked forgiveness for his father, but for a promise he made to him, and when it became clear to him that he was an enemy of God, he renounced him. Abraham was tenderhearted and forbearing. (9:114)

Abraham was forbearing, compassionate, penitent. (11:75)

God has commanded his believers always to behave in a pleasant manner, to speak kindly, and to treat others well. His prophets behaved accordingly. For example, when the Prophet Musa (Moses) (peace be upon him) was about to go to Pharaoh, one of the most repressive and cruel rulers of all times, God called on Moses in these terms (20:42-44):

Go, you and your brother, with My Signs, and do not slacken in remem-

bering Me. Go to Pharaoh; he has overstepped the bounds. But speak to him with gentle words so that hopefully, he will be reminded or show some fear.

These verses are an important reminder that everyone has a duty to live by the morality that the Qur'an reveals, and to adopt the morality of the prophets. The Qur'an proposes the following ideals for mankind: Love to

But if someone is steadfast and forgives, that is the most resolute course to follow. (Surat ash-Shura: 43)

all creatures God created; being kind and gentle in the best possible ways; always favoring compromise and tolerance; never speaking harshly, even under the most trying circumstances; making sacrifices happily and willingly; always desiring and seeking the best for others; pushing one's own personal desires to the background; wishing for others exactly what one wishes for oneself; being always quick to offer assistance in cases of need; and rejecting all forms of cruelty. That, no doubt, is exactly the ethical model that mankind is searching for.

Islam Supports Freedom of Belief

In matters of belief, Islam offers people complete freedom, and in the very clearest language. That has been so ever since Islam was first revealed, and forms the basis of today's Islamic morality. The verses on the subject (2:256) are perfectly clear:

There is no compulsion where religion is concerned. Right guidance has become clearly distinct from error. Anyone who rejects false gods and believes in God has grasped the Firmest Handhold, which will never give way. God is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

People are free to choose correctly or wrongly. When Islam--the true path that God has revealed--is explained, they come to believe of their own free will, reaching this decision with no pressure being put on them. If they make wrong choices, they will face its consequences in the hereafter. On this subject, Verse 10: 99 of the Qur'an contains the clearest command and reminder: **"If your Lord had willed, all the people on the earth would have believed. Do you think you can force people to be believers?"**

A believer's only responsibility is to call people to the Qur'an. He cannot be

blamed for atheists' refusal to amend their ways, nor with how they will earn the torments of hell for themselves. God has given mankind both reason and a conscience. His messengers and the divine books revealed to them have shown the true path, and people are responsible for their own choices. Islamic morality can be lived only by a sincere decision to do so--by surrendering oneself to God and listening to one's conscience, which always commands one to do what is right. It is a total violation of Islamic morality to force anyone to believe, because what matters is an individual's surrendering himself to God with all his heart and believing sincerely.

It's worth emphasizing that Islam leaves people free to make their own choices. Under the morality of Islam, everyone is free to carry out the obligations in accord with his own particular belief. Nobody can prevent any others from performing their particular religious duties, nor can he oblige them to worship in the manner he desires. That violates the morality of Islam, and is unacceptable to God.

Islam Commands That Oppression Be Abolished

Muslims should never remain silent in the face of oppression that they witness, or even hear about secondhand. Their compassion, stemming from the morality of the Qur'an, directs them to oppose all tyranny, wickedness and oppression, to defend the oppressed, to wage a war of ideas on their behalf. Whether dealing with their closest friends or with strangers with whom they share no interests in common, they behave in a manner determined to prevent any such oppression. Rather, they seize on this opportunity to win the good pleasure of God and imple-

You will not be true believers until you are merciful with one another. (Bukhari and Muslim)

ment the morality of the Qur'an. Because a believer's conscience is so very sensitive, his compassion never lets him turn a blind eye to the slightest injustice or cruelty. He will take his place in the vanguard of that morality by avoiding any actions that might be unfair to or oppress anyone else. Whenever he sees anyone else behaving that way, his conscience gives him no peace until he's done everything possible to right matters. True compas-

sion has no room for forgetting about oppression, ignoring it or understimating it.

The ignorant seldom act until oppression stands at their very own doorstep. This stems from their forgetting or denying that in the hereafter, they will be brought face to face with all the good and bad deeds that they encountered in this world. But the faithful, well aware of this, will treat even total strangers he has never met with great compassion and seeks to rescue them from oppression. Even if no one else supports him, he will muster all his strength to forestall wickedness. Even though the majority may behave differently, their lack of conscience never rubs off on the true believer. In the hereafter, Muslims know, they will be called to account for what they did to prevent evil. They won't be able to get away with excuses like, "I didn't see it," or "I didn't hear it," or "I never knew what was going on." (To be continued)

Quick grasp of faith * What does the Qur'an say about orphans?

It is commanded in the Qur'an to be good and compassionate towards orphans, for they have no parents to look after them or to ensure their education:

So as for orphans, do not oppress them. (Surat ad-Duha: 9)

In other verses, Allah commands people to respect their rights, set aside part of their goods and income for them, and to treat them well. Furthermore, He recommends that an orphan's assets be used justly, and that these should be returned when he or she reaches mental maturity.

Allah advises people to be careful and meticulous about an orphan's education so that he or she can be brought up as a good person and have the good morals of the Qur'an. He encourages the believers to provide orphans with protection and material assurance:

... They will ask you about the orphans. Say: "Improvement for them is best." If you mix your affairs with theirs, they are your brothers... (Surat al-Baqara, 220)

The believers always avoid being unjust with an orphan's property, because Allah defines the pitiless behavior of those who covet such property and benefit from it as a serious crime:

Give the orphans their property, and do not substitute bad things for good. Do not assimilate their property into your own, [for] doing that is a serious crime. (Surat an-Nisa', 2)

As a result of these verses, the believers protect the orphans' property carefully until they grow up and can take care of themselves, and then hand over all of their rights to them.

* Is it acceptable to defer one's acts of worship until old age?

Allah holds everybody who has a sound mind and consciousness responsible for living by the Qur'an's morals and for fulfilling the religion's commands. Those who perform acts of worship live a good life in this world and earn eternal life in Paradise. Intentionally deferring these prayers with such thoughts as "I'd better enjoy my youthful years, I can worship when I get older and thus earn the life in the Hereafter" may cause people to lose their lives in the Hereafter, for **"There is no repentance for people who persist in doing evil until death comes to them and who then say: 'Now I repent,' nor for people who die as**

unbelievers. We have prepared for them a painful punishment." (Surat an-Nisa', 18) Also remember that no one knows when he or she will die. Thus, it is a great mistake to defer one's worship, for after death there are no more chances, regardless of the level of regret or of the desire to be sent back. (For further reference, please see, Quick Grasp of Faith 1-3, by Harun Yahya)

Miracles of the Qur'an Sub-Atomic Particles

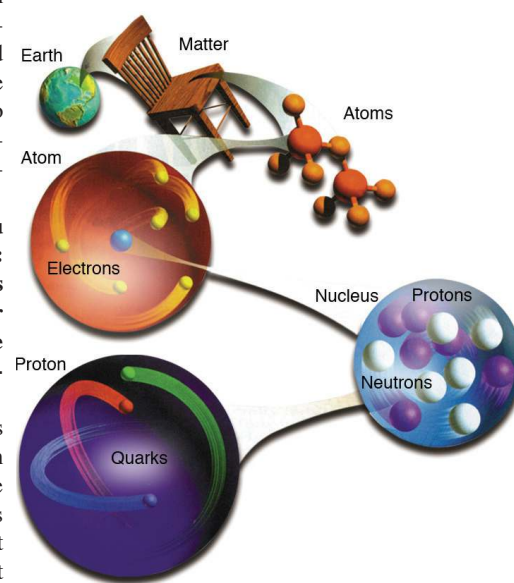
Following the development of the atomic theory of the Greek philosopher Democritus, people used to believe that matter consisted of minute, indivisible and indestructible particles known as atoms. However, advances in the study of atoms have refuted this notion. At the present time, modern science has revealed that the atom, previously regarded as the smallest particle, can actually be split. This fact only emerged in the last century, but was revealed in the Qur'an 1,400 years ago:

... He is the Knower of the Unseen, Whom not an atom's weight eludes, either in the heavens or in the earth; nor is there anything smaller or larger than that which is not in a Clear Book. (Qur'an, 34:3)

... Not even an atom's weight eludes your Lord, either on earth or in heaven. Nor is there anything smaller than that, or larger, which is not in a Clear Book. (Qur'an, 10:61)

This verse refers to "atom" and smaller particles still.

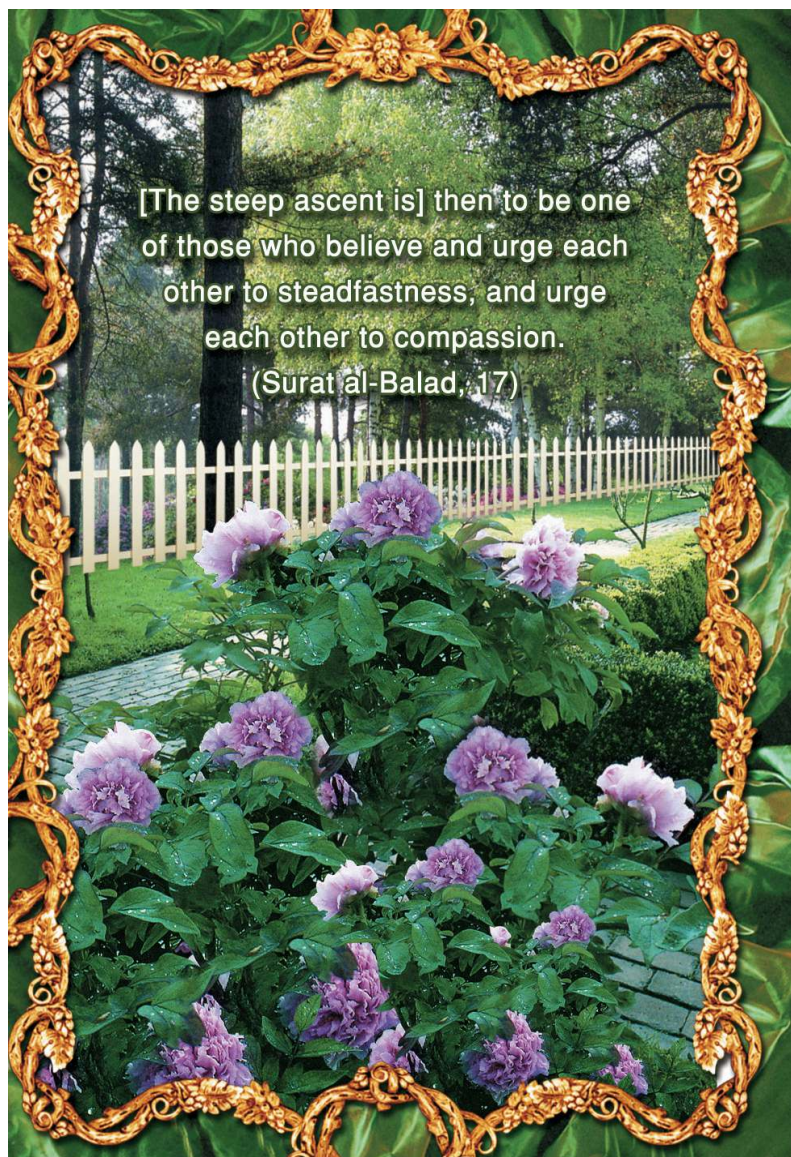
Up until 20 years ago, it was believed that the smallest particles were the protons and neutrons which comprise the atom. Very recently, however, even smaller particles of which these themselves consist were discovered. A specialised branch of physics,



called "particle physics," emerged to study these "sub-particles" and their particular behaviour. Particle physics research has revealed that the protons and neutrons which comprise the atoms actually consist of sub-particles known as quarks. The size of these quarks, the basic components of protons, whose small size is beyond human conception, is astonishing: 10⁻¹⁸ (0.000000000000000001 of a metre).

Another point worthy of note is that these verses draw particular attention to the weight of the atom. The word "mithqal," in the expression "mithqali tharratin" (an atom's weight) in the above verses, means weight. In fact, it has been discovered that the protons, neutrons and electrons which form the atom are also compounds which give the atom its weight. Therefore, it is yet another scientific miracle of the Qur'an that attention is drawn instead to the weight of the atom and not its size or any other feature.

To purchase the works of Harun Yahya, please visit www.bookglobal.net



[The steep ascent is] then to be one of those who believe and urge each other to steadfastness, and urge each other to compassion. (Surat al-Balad, 17)

Details of the Yemeni nuclear power aspirations reveal shocking deception

Yemen's Big-time Nuclear Fraud

Investigated by: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqaf@gmail.com

Just when the Millennium Challenge Corporation demonstrated faith in the Yemeni government applauding its recent reforms, shocking developments on the political arena by decision makers indicate that Transparency International was probably right when it dropped 20 ranks, from the 111th rank to the 131st in its Corruption Perception Index.

It all started over a year during the publicity campaign of President Saleh for the Sept 2006 presidential elections, when he first declared that Yemen has a nuclear ambition; "we will generate electricity using nuclear technology" President Saleh said. Following that declaration, Mustapha Bahran -head of the Yemeni National Atomic Energy Agency, publicized the idea in his speeches and media events, articulating how the idea of nuclear power in Yemen is doable either through outsourcing the nuclear reactor or building one on-shore, the publicity campaign continued until Bahran got promoted to the post of the Minister of Electricity, and, eventually, inked an agreement with a U.S. based company to construct Yemen's first nuclear reactors.

Bahran has signed the US\$ 15 billion agreement with Powered Corporation even prior to undertaking a feasibility study of the whole concept; while the signatory company's total assets are worth US\$ 66,902.

Bahran said in a speech at Hadhramout University last month that Nuclear energy is the future, adding that there are 435 nuclear power stations in the world, providing over 370 thousand mega watts. In other speeches and media interviews Bahran was expressive about the benefits of nuclear energy in Yemen, as it would not only kiss Yemen's electricity problems goodbye, but it will also solve Yemen's water crisis, improve reproductive health, help kids do better in school, grow industry and promote investments, labeling nuclear energy as the remedy for Yemen's problems.

The US\$ 15 billion deal

On the 24th of September, Yemen signed a US\$ 15 billion deal with U.S.-based Powered Corporation in order to construct five nuclear reactors in Yemen during the span of 10 years, to produce a total of five thousand megawatts of electric power. After consultations with Powered Corporation, Bahran stated that the construction of the first nuclear reactor would take four years, and that it would be a state-

SEC Info - Powered CORP - IPO S-1 - On 7/13/07 - Table in Document 1 of 11 - S-1 - Powered Corporation S-1 7-13-2007 10/2/07 2:29 PM

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Table in Document 1 of 11 - S-1 - Powered Corporation S-1 7-13-2007

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	Years ended December 31,				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Statement of operations data:					
Revenues:					
Consulting fees to related party	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Operating expenses:					
General and administrative	10,000	3,000	1,111,562	634,765	1,449,930
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Total operating expenses	10,000	3,000	1,111,562	634,765	1,449,930
Loss from operations	(10,000)	(3,000)	(1,111,562)	(634,765)	(1,424,930)
Other income (expenses):					
Dividend income	-	-	-	-	305
Currency exchange	-	-	-	-	(1,010)
Total other expenses	-	-	-	-	(705)
Net loss	\$ (10,000)	\$ (3,000)	\$ (1,111,562)	\$ (634,765)	\$ (1,425,635)
Net loss per share	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ (0.02)	\$ (0.01)	\$ (0.02)
Weighted average number of common shares	9,786,753	10,043,192	62,166,424	64,436,582	67,800,904
Balance sheet data:					
Cash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,501
Total assets	-	-	5,000	5,000	66,902
Long-term debt	-	-	-	-	-
Convertible preferred stock	-	-	-	-	-
Total stockholders' equity	-	-	5,000	5,000	46,902
	9				

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of-the-art facility approved by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

However, Bahran was exceptionally careful about revealing any of the details of the US\$ 15 billion deal, in spite of being known as an articulate personality who would spare no effort in communicating. Fellow journalist Muneer Al-Mawiri was the first journalist to analyze the issue and expose why Minister Bahran did not reveal the

Critics of nuclear generation argue that the costs of nuclear generation are invariably understated and underwritten by the government of Yemen

details, Says Al-Mawiri: "Once the minister announced the name of the contracted company, I thought it is my duty to research it in order to find out more information about this suspicious deal."

Al-Mawiri's findings were shocking,

firstly, the company is co-chaired by a Yemeni immigrant to Oklahoma named Jalal AbdulGhani, or Jalan AlGhani, were Minister Bahran went to school, while other U.S. sources state that both Yemenis went to the same University in Oklahoma. Jalal has been accused of committing fraud and being involved in scams and covering up for corruption in the three posts he held prior to his most recent post at Powered Corporation.

More shockingly, since the establishment of the company in 2002, has never been involved in any nuclear reactor building or nuclear-related activity, in fact, the company's operational finances indicate that throughout its lifespan is worth no more than US\$ 25,000, which was paid out by one of the company's own directors, Khalid Al-Sunaid, to prepare a preliminary risk analysis and assessment study concerning this power generation project in Yemen.

Information from the U.S. Securities

and Exchange Commission (SEC) stated that the company's total assets are worth US\$ 66,902, while the total shareholders equity stood at 46,902, as of December 31st, 2006.

SEC described investing in Powered Corporation as involving a high degree of risk, listing a number of risks which the company which was mandated to list for all prospect shareholders when it made its initial public offering last

Powered Corporation's Operations: 2002: Zero; 2003: Zero; 2004: Zero; 2005: Zero; 2006: 25,000 (for an assessment in Yemen); 2007: Zero.

July. These risks include Very little operating capital, and the company may not be able to raise the capital, as they company has never paid dividend and is unlikely to pay dividend in the foreseeable future. The company also

has no insurance, depends on external sources for everything, the company has even settled its

Bahran's world:

In spite of these numbers, Bahran told Agence France Press that a jointly-funded US\$ 3 million feasibility study would be conducted in early 2009. He also added that the Government of Yemen would rely on Powered Corporation to raise the funds for the construction of the nuclear reactors will follow the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) procedures, where the returns of sale of energy would compensate investors for their investment in the nuclear reactors.

International Consultant Dominic Moran stated that significant doubts remain concerning the future prospects for the nascent Yemeni atomic program, quoting critics of nuclear generation debunking Bahran's claim that generating nuclear power would be economically competitive and cheaper than the electricity produced by other means, arguing that the costs of nuclear generation are invariably understated

and underwritten by the government of Yemen.

The consultant indicates that given the company's financial history and risks associated, it will not be able to raise the US\$ 15 billion for the construction of the nuclear power plants, unless the company relies on the United States Government to bear the bulk of start-up funding and provide ongoing payment guarantees.

The Irony is that Bahran was in a rush to sign the US\$ 15 billion agreement with Powered Corporation even prior to undertaking a feasibility study of the whole concept, while Yemen's request to the International Atomic Energy Agency for technical assistance and support in drafting the economic feasibility study for the nuclear energy reactors is still being studied by the Agency.

Yementimes has attempted to contact the company through phone and email, and also through visiting its branch in Sana'a, but there was no response, YemenTimes also attempted to contact Mr. James Jeffrey through his personal email address but he did not reply.

Business in brief

GIA requests FIAS help in attracting investments

Director of the General Investment Authority Sallah Al-Attar stated that his authority is seeking technical assistance from the IFC in order to develop an a promotional policy for investments in Yemen targeting selected gulf-based corporations. The assistance will be carried out by FIAS and will be implemented throughout a span of three years, with a total cost of US\$ 6 million.

Al-Arhabi discusses improving Yemen's MCC indicators

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs AbdulKarim Al-Arhabi has discussed the mechanism to improve Yemen's ranking in the indicators adopted by the Millennium Challenge Corporation with the Members of the Anti-Corruption Committee and the ministers of legal affairs and finance. Al-Arhabi stated that Yemen must succeed in the threshold program in order to be qualified for the compact, which includes assistance of US\$ 600-700 million.

MPs denounce the government's request for additional funding

Opposition and Independent Members of the Parliament has denounced the actions taken by the ruling majority which allowed additional funding for the government of 267 billion Riyals. MPs stated that although the government promised to stick to its budget we did not see that happening, they also stated that the additional funding was unjustified and does not address the needs of the people.

Germany supports basic education in Yemen

Germany has recently signed a cooperation agreement with the ministry of education to provide a grant of US\$ 25 million in assistance of basic education projects in Yemen. Germany's contribution increases the total German support of basic education programs to US\$ 145 million. Germany's educational development support programs also include basic, secondary and vocational training.

Yemen Labor Union warns of fraud immigration schemes

The Yemeni labor union has warned Yemeni workers be falling victims to fraudulent immigration and worker-visa schemes, which promise labor employment opportunities in neigh-

boring gulf countries. The union advised workers to abide by the regulations of the ministry of labor affairs and contact embassies of the selected gulf countries to ensure the authenticity of the immigration schemes.

Qatar National Bank gets licensed in Yemen

The Central Bank of Yemen has recently announced that it has granted the operating license for Qatar National Bank to operate in Yemen, after the Bank has completed all the required prerequisites. The governor of the Central Bank also stated that the bank is studying requests from other regional banks to operate in Yemen.

Computerization of the government's financial system progressing

Sources at the ministry of finance has confirmed that the computerization and digitization of the government's financial system has been completed at a total cost of US\$ 11 million. This stage links the ministry of finance with 4 government ministries as well as the central bank of Yemen, allowing strict monitoring and control of the financial operations in the ministries as well as other government agencies through the central bank.

Arab Monetary Fund finance Wheat Deal

The UAE-based Arab Monetary Fund has agreed to finance the Yemeni-Syrian Wheat deal where Yemen would buy US\$ 70 million worth of wheat from Syria on annual bases. The fund will finance this operation with an interest rate not exceeding 0.375%.

Libya to set up entertainment city in Sana'a

The Yemeni-Libyan investment company is planning to set up an entertainment city in Sana'a costing around 3 billion Riyals, the entertainment city will include recreational facilities, restaurants, children amusement park among others.

Syrian Products exhibited in Sana'a

Minister of Trade and industry Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakel has recently inaugurated the Syrian products exhibition in Expo, Sana'a. the exhibition will last for fifteen days and includes a wide range of textiles targeting Yemeni population which habitually purchases clothing items for the Occasion of Eid.

Doing Business in Yemen 2008: No change

By: YemenTimes Staff

The latest information from the World Bank's Doing Business Report for 2008 indicates that there is very little change in Yemen's position, although several indicators has slightly improved and others slightly deteriorated, Yemen is ranked at the 113th rank globally, however, Yemen occupies the ninth rank in the region ahead of Egypt, Iran and Syria.

The report provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 178 countries, through working closely with thousands of professionals around the world. Therefore it is used as a guide for investors and businessmen to study the business environment in countries into which they wish to expand their operations through trade and investment.

The report stated that they are fundamental transformations taken place in

Yemen		2007 rank	2006 rank	Change in rank
Doing Business	113
Starting a Business	175	176	176	+1
Dealing with Licenses	35	34	34	-1
Employing Workers	63	64	64	+1
Registering Property	44	43	43	-1
Getting Credit	158	156	156	-2
Protecting Investors	122	120	120	-2
Paying Taxes	84	81	81	-3
Trading Across Borders	128	121	121	-7
Enforcing Contracts	41	40	40	-1
Closing a Business	83	82	82	-1

Note: Doing Business 2007 rankings for fiscal 2006 are being recalculated to reflect changes to the methodology and the addition of three new countries.
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the global arena, for one, Eastern Europe has surpassed East Asia in terms of ease of doing business, ranking better than other countries such as Malaysia, France, South Korea, and South Africa which have been known to have an attractive business environment and are destinations for global investments.

Regionally, the report indicates that Saudi Arabia ranks the highest in the

region, having the 23rd rank globally in terms of ease of doing business, ranking better than other countries such as Malaysia, France, South Korea, and South Africa which have been known to have an attractive business environment and are destinations for global investments.

In Yemen, the Donors conference held last November and the Invest in

Yemen conference held last April seem to have little impact on the ease of doing business indicator. IFC in Yemen is planning to organize a conference which will discuss the doing business report, explain the indicators to Yemeni officials and decision makers how the report works and what should Yemen do in order to improve its rankings in the report.

يسر

مجموعة هائل سعيد أنعم وشركاه

أن تتقدم بخالص وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات
القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ المشير /

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

وإلى اللواء الركن /

عبدربه منصور هادي

نائب رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى رئيس وأعضاء مجلس النواب

وإلى رئيس وأعضاء مجلس الوزراء

وإلى رئيس وأعضاء مجلس الشورى

وإلى محافظي المحافظات والقيادات الأمنية

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني الكريم

بمناسبة أعياد الثورة اليمنية المباركة

كل عام وانتم بخير

عنهم :

علي محمّد سعيد أنعم

رئيس مجلس الإدارة

أحمد هائل سعيد أنعم

نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة

المدير العام



ASB



The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

Our precious Yemen

By: Fuad Ahmed Ja'dan
English Lang. graduate

Sun-burnt mirth of sons, high as the sun
What to do? We did, what you want we
led
Like amazing painting, full of lovely
gratitude
Of the eternal raining spring song of
miracles, soon
The stars are dancing in the music of the
moon.

For sons, fathers, leers, for the land
Of May the twenty second.
O my God keeping my spirit Yemen.
She is sweet Helen, my love, life, and
my soul,
I pray, take the all, but the whole still
While saving my beloved, Yemen.
Of which I made, for which I die, on
which I enjoyed
My prayers, her music, how she looks
like!
Of the kindest and wisest light she
made,
That I never see like, like the moon of
dark night,

The sun of the heaven.
Ours is the paradise of Yeat's Byzantium
Those who lived in Eliot's The Wasting
Land,
And survived from Milton's Paradise
Lost
Running and still coming to settle
peacefully
In the arms of Yemen,
To feel the warmth, kindness, the wis-
dom,
Brotherhood, equality, here, the all of
Adam
Of my heart blood written these crimson
words
Maybe to relieve the painful aches,
To be song of happiness on her rosy
lips,
To cure the groaning agony of soaring
spirits,
To draw her melodious soft music
sounds
My fate, the honest days I spend in her
ears,

Oh, the last moment between heaven
and hell,
Between day and night as cure and ill.

I hear cheerful voices, I see eyes cheer-
ing hope tearful.
The future breath over the breeze I
smell,
While lovers exchange each other
smiles as angels.
Therefore, keep yourself awake. No
time, they move fast,
Not be asleep. Here only youth with
books and experts,
You find the peals of minds, doctors and
learners.
We are to pass the impossible, to kill the
ignorance.
Look, with will, they were four steps
running as fast step.
Hardly I bid farewell on a moment and
welcomes on a step.
What past was! What future is! It is a
painful farewell.
What a bitter moment is! In the final
farewell!
Party to leave my dearest doctors and
friends.
But I thank my God, I have my faith,
will and aims.
To build, work and die for the life of
Yemen.

What a chance is waiting us!?

By: Saif Hamoud Masoud
Saif_dion@yahoo.com

Having read many articles in several newspapers that have criticized Muslim's status in Ramadan, and how they behave against our Islamic rules, has made me write on such a matter.

Ramadan is the month intensive "worship". Fasting in Ramadan is prescribed for us to strengthen our bodies as well our souls. We worship Allah in Ramadan by our bodies, spirits, hearts and minds, which is the best clue to purify our souls and set our thinking right "straightforwardness"

Since we reach to the other part of Ramadan, we still have few days to do better than we did. Let us look forward, open the mind's eye and believe in ourselves to see what has been divined for us. No more blaming, no more regretting, just do good deeds and work

instead. There are few days that contain some of the most precious chances for us as Muslim. The last ten days of Ramadan, have an irreplaceable and special place in Islam because among them comes the greatest event of "Night Of The Power".

What a massive virtue in these events are waiting us. Night of the power, when the gates of the sky are going to be opened widely and the angles would be gotten down in order to collect all the human deeds and take them to the celestial world. It means the night during which destinies are going to be decided, beside it is the night of unique honor, dignity and glory as much as that is better than a thousand months. The prophet Mohammad said about this majestic night: "Any Muslim who stands in prayer during the night of Qadr out of faith and sincerity his/her previous sins shall be forgiven." In addition, there is no exact date of this night but our prophet said that "Seek it on the odd

night of the last ten days of Ramadan", therefore, we would worship Allah more fervently than we do.

Moreover, we need to have a better sense of pity and consciousness of Allah: "Taqwa". The purpose of Taqwa is wide in its sense. It embraces everything that can harm or benefit us. It definitely would be fulfilled in seclusion. Seclusion is to be holy with Allah, to stay in a mosque or any place you choose to and spend the time in prayer performance, supplication and reading holy Qur'an, all of these can empower you to shake off your sins, worries and anxieties.

We won't be lost any more. Isn't that sufficient for us to restore what we didn't realize or what we ignored? Dear reader, let us just be honest and we can make a promise because it requires nothing impossible but a great intent deep within that won't be frustrated in order to work harder and harder, reaching a high position in Islamic meditation.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



Let us have reconciliation

Dear readers, women and men, Khawatem Mubarakah. In this article, I want just to conclude the topic of gender-equality, which was opened by me in my article entitled "Gender-equality, is it a game dear women?" In fact, that article was just a trap for getting responses especially by women so that I can draw the conclusion from their ideas and viewpoints. Having gotten such reactions, I, hereby, conclude the topic and call all to have a reconciliation.

I got many responses to my article. Some of them were against me, and others (frankly only few) were supporting my arguments. It is not important for me who is wrong and who is right since it is only a discussion about a critical social topic especially nowadays.

The purpose of the discussion was to answer many daily-asked questions like "what is gender-equality", "what are its aspects?", "is it applicable in our Islamic society", etc. I hope the published articles of mine and other readers like Mis Noha Molhi, Mis Lamis Alshuga, and Mr. Waleed Farea spotted enough light on the topic.

Here, I confess that I was illogical in some points in my first article. To remind you, I asked why women do not accept the idea of treating them exactly like men since they want gender-equality. I referred to some actual stories in which women refuse such a status.

In fact, I am against the idea of treating women exactly like men. I wanted, however, to say that but in the words of others especially women. I did it in this

way for two reasons. The first was to know the opinions and views of all the readers interested in the topic. The second reason was to avoid any accuses against me as a biased and prejudiced man against women.

Noha's article entitled "Dear Maged, equality of rights not of nature" was a good catch for me. She strongly rejected the idea of gender-equality except in rights. Though I did not deny women's rights to study, work, vote, etc, she, in a way or another, supported me when she declared that there can not be equality between women and men in terms of nature, and responsibilities. And this exactly what I wanted to say, but through her words.

In Mis Lamis' article, I got the lost circle that make many people ask many questions related to this topic. I like very much her direct declaration that "I disagree with equality itself". She went in details, rejecting the idea of equality especially in our society. She justified that "it is a mercy from Allah to make the nature of men stronger than women's nature".

Lamis gave more clear examples and actual stories that prove the impossibility of equality between the two sexes. She referred to the Holy Qura'an when quoted "Men are curators on women". She also suggested other terms to replace "Equality" like "demands" and "rights". She, however, referred to me as if I am against these rights though I am completely and constantly call for them in actual life and in other articles such as "When females outnumber".

Later on, an article was published by Waleed Mahdi, entitled "Gender-equality or gender equity". Waleed commented on the articles of mine, Noha,

and Lmis. He shed light on the difference between the terms of "equality" and "equity" from an academic point of view. According to him, The former is simply defined as the quality of being equal in quantity, degree, value, rank, or ability while the latter is seen as the quality of being fair."

He gave details about these two terms, explaining how the sense of equality is something impossible, or as he said "it has certainly failed and would certainly fail in Yemen". This is because of Islamic and social boundaries that can not be exceeded.

Moreover, he advocated the "equity" which gives women their rights to work, study, elect, etc. He concludes with example that prove how equality like "women's marriage to four men" is something rejected in almost all Arab and Islamic societies, and how the "equity" like equal education is something undeniable.

Through these articles, I hope, it became clearer how women's rights (equity) basically differ from the equality between men and women in all the aspects of life. So, let us sum up the topic to say that women's rights are highly recommended, and all of us must call for them. But the exact equality between men and women is highly rejected especially in an Islamic society like ours.

All in all, I wrote this article just to end the topic with a hope that we could answer the related daily-asked questions, and offer a solution for such a hot social topic. By the end, I ask forgiveness from all, and let us take it a chance to have a reconciliation on the last blessed days and nights of the Holy Month.



International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

Title of the position: Project Officer – Yemen Tax Simplification Project
Grade: Local - GF
Reporting Lines: Senior Operations Manager, Business Enabling Environment; Program Leader Business Taxation (FIAS)
Location: Sanaa, Yemen
Appointment Type: 12 months

About the IFC PEP MENA and FIAS: The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, promotes sustainable private sector investment in developing countries as a way to reduce poverty and improve people's lives. In addition to its investment work, IFC, through the Private Enterprise Partnership (PEP), executes a major donor-funded program of private sector technical assistance and advisory services in the Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region. The objectives of the program are to promote direct investment in the private sector, build local businesses and financial intermediaries, and help improve the business enabling environment.

For almost 21 years, The Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS) has advised more than 130 member country governments on how to improve their investment climate for both foreign and domestic investors and maximize its impact on poverty reduction. FIAS is a joint service of the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank. We receive funding from these institutions and through contributions from donors and clients

About the Project: In July, 2007, The Government of Yemen asked FIAS/PEP-MENA to design and administer a wide-ranging reform program aimed at encouraging participation in the tax system through simplification, rationalization, and removal of barriers to paying and administering tax. This request followed the delivery of an assessment of the impact of the tax system on business to the Yemen Tax Authorities and endorsed by the private sector. Accordingly, the tax team will assist the Tax Authority and the Ministry of Finance to improve Yemen's business enabling environment by reducing the time and financial cost of complying with tax, streamlining and making the entire tax system more accessible, and aligning the legal framework with best practice, thus encouraging investment.

The project will specifically address the following:

1. Tax Procedures for Income Tax and GST administration
2. Income Tax specific policy issues (legal framework and administrative procedures)
3. GST specific policy issues (focus on administrative procedures)
4. Proliferation of sub-national taxes, licenses, fees
5. Develop a roadmap/strategy to improve the structure/efficiency of the Tax Authority.
6. Initiate the rollout of the reformed architecture of the tax authority to reflect the streamlined administration system.
7. Design and Roll-out of new SME taxation system (i.e. definition, legal and administrative roadmap for potential roll-out in the future)

Project Structure:

The Project Officer will lead this reform project with the support and direction of the joint FIAS / PEP MENA team based in Washington DC and Cairo. The Project Officer is expected to be the focal point of the project working closely with the client, the Tax Authority/Ministry of Finance, as well as the Private Sector. This will involve coordinating with key government officials, private sector organizations, and the donor community in order to streamline and simplify the tax administration system.

The project will begin with an initial mapping / benchmarking exercise to identify the key constraints, followed by a process re-engineering/reform phase which will involve bringing all relevant stakeholders and process owners together to redesign the process with the support of international experts. The re-designed processes will be complemented by training and capacity building activities for both administrators and the private sector.

Responsibilities of the Project Officer:

Primary responsibility of the Project Officer would be to implement all components of the Tax Simplification Project. Specific tasks would include:

1. Work closely with the Business Enabling Environment Operations team to launch the project in a timely manner.
2. Provide input to the project design, manage the project on a day-to-day basis, and conduct the project's exit strategy.

3. Deliver top-quality work on time, and meet tight deadlines and targets in a difficult external environment, assuring that all project activities exemplify internationally accepted best practice.
4. Regularly report to the Senior Operations Manager and Business Tax Program Leader on project implementation, including procurement, budget management, quality control and service delivery.
5. Assist the PEP MENA and FIAS team in building strong relationships with senior government officials.
6. Coordinate on all areas of project delivery with hired local and international consultants.
7. Organize and lead study tours, workshops, and conferences.
8. Undertake field missions on an as-needed basis.
9. Collaborate with PEP-MENA's Monitoring & Evaluation expert to define and monitor impact indicators from the outset of the program and until its finalization.
10. Ensure that the donor community is updated regularly on the progress of the program—especially the co-financers.
11. Facilitate the technical working group (public-private sector)

Qualifications

- Advanced degree in Business Administration, Accounting, Economics, Law, or equivalent
- Eight - ten years work experience in development, preferably in the field of regulatory reform as well as experience in project management, or experience in tax administration, tax consulting, tax law.
- Excellent oral and written communication and presentational skills
- Fluency in English and Arabic
- Knowledge of regulatory approaches
- Proven planning, organizational and leadership skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills with a willingness to work in a team environment
- Exceptional ability to operate under pressure and tight deadlines with accuracy and professionalism

For full consideration, please submit your letter of application accompanied by the CV attention: Office Administrator before October 22 via e-mail: WB Yemen@worldbank.org Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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“Marriage between human beings and jinn is an odious thing”

Opening clinics to treat people with Holy Quran, exorcising evil spirits, using strangulation and electrification, marriage between human beings and fairies as well as other issues have become a way to earn money under the guise of Holy Quran due to the communities' ignorance. Omar Dawkam interviewed Yasir As-Sagheer.

Yasir As-Sagheer treats people with the Holy Quran, and has an MA in jurisprudence and is accredited in the field of democracy and human rights. He warns people of fraudulent shops because of their deceiving antics. He also agrees that there is treatment similar to Abu-Ghareeb jail in Iraq, saying "Satan made a deal with Bush and Olmert, thus there is no need to occupy them."

As-Sagheer describes jinn as aggressors and that the exorcist uses verses from the Quran and traditions of the prophet. Thus, they can not take their wanted revenge on the one who exorcized him.

"The matter of marriage between human beings and jinni is objective in itself. I have my only wife, Omm Ammar, and she is the best woman in my view."

"Marriage between human beings and jinn is an odious thing. All praises to Allah because our women did not accept this evil idea; otherwise, a big evil door would have been opened under the pretence that jinn can have sexual relations with women."

Most of curers use beating, strangulation, cautery and perhaps electrification. But As-Sagheer says these are illegal means, which are neither proved by prophet Mohammed (PBUH) nor his companions.

"These are perfect examples of what is



actually happening in Abu-Ghareeb Prison or Guantanamo Bay."

Commenting on some people who say that the devil is in the human being's blood, which encourage some curers to use injections, As-Sagheer says: "Imam Abdul-Aziz was asked about this topic, along with scientists in fatwa no. 18569. The answer was that the spell is specific and not to exceed the legal matter.. This is

a savage act and the curers should carry the responsibility of what they are doing."

Jinn and Europeans

"In Western Countries, specialized physicians admit that they themselves are in fact "occupied by Satan". These facts are found in a book titled "Occupied by Satan". The author of this book is Riyadh Mustafa from Damascus, Syria. The book

mentioned (p.110) that the Ministry of Health in England received proof of the possibility of treating a large number of them. The Ministry agreed with this medical resolution. However, a significant number of quacks as well as specialized physicians held special sessions. They could exorcise evil spirits from ten of those being occupied by devils."

"Satan has no reason to go to Bush or Olmert because a deal has already been signed between them to violate the rights of Arabs and Muslims in the Middle East."

Treatment with Quran

As-Sagheer takes cite Al-Qardhawi, Al-Ghazali (two prominent Islamic scholars) who deny that jinn or other spirits can possess humans. He says he doesn't see any contradiction in this issue.

"It is a matter of judgment and one can see it from a different angle. Al-Qardhawi, Al-Ghazali and others do not deny the existence of jinn. However, they had their own judgments and opinions. They understood the occupation of jinn in the human body as a harbinger seduction, so this matter is flexible and disputable."

As-Sagheer says there is no problem in getting money through treating people with the Holy Quran.

"This is even proved in Sharia and Sunna. Nevertheless, the purpose of opening clinics depends on their intention. If the intentions are good and there is no underlying purpose to deceive Muslims in the name of jinn, the reader of the Quran will be rewarded for it. On the other hand, if the intention is a fraud, it takes into consideration the falsification of Quran and Sunna."

"The person becoming occupied should believe that the recovery is in the hand of Allah. In my point of view, if the person has the characteristics of posses-

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sion, I read and give prophetic medicines (honey, herbs and olive oil). I also use a spell cassette for two weeks or a month. When the person is finished taking the medicine, he should retain normalcy. For some curers, it is a matter of deception and the patient would need a Swiss Bank Account just to undertake any sort of treatment."

"In my point of view, clinics that use spells without giving medicines or herbs do not need permission from the Ministry of Health. However they need a recommendation from two known scientists at least, along with observation from the Ministry of Endowment."

"Clinics that use folk medicine should have permission from the Health Ministry."

Clinics, centres, houses or takeaways that did not cure with Quran or herbs should be close and the curers should be subjected to punishment to the law's fullest extent.

"The certificates of the curers should be authorized by the ministry of health."

Thus, I would like to call for the sign-

ing of laws to organize these clinics and rid out corruption and fraud. Some bad apples should not be able to ruin a bunch. The Health and the Endowment ministries are responsible for this matter, in my point of view."

Symptoms of possession

"99% percent of cases I receive are in fact the result of regular illness, and I thus send them to specialized physicians. However that still leaves 1% that could be occupied by Jinn."

It is very important that the curer be knowledgeable about psychology, the unconscious and sociology.

The following are symptoms that I believe are characteristic of possession:

- 1- Depression from prayers and reading the Holy Quran.
- 2- Frequent horrible dreams and nightmares.
- 3- Laughter and crying or biting by canines during sleep.
- 4- Absentmindedness, obscurity and laziness.
- 5- A sudden reversal of love or hatred."

Odd news

Biologists aim to wipe out "Rat Island"

(Reuters)- Two centuries after rats first landed on a remote Aleutian island from a shipwreck, wildlife managers in Alaska are plotting how to evict the non-native rodent from the island that bears their name.

Rat Island, like many other treeless, volcanic islands in the 1,000-mile (1,609-km) long Aleutian chain, is infested with rats that have proved devastating to wild birds that build nests in the earth or in rocky cliffs.

"They pretty much made the island worthless for a lot of wildlife," said Art SOWLS, a biologist with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, which sprawls across the Aleutians and other Alaska islands.

Rodents have reigned at Rat Island at the western end of the Aleutians since the 1780 shipwreck of a Japanese sailing ship, wreaking havoc on millions of seabirds with no natural defenses against land predators.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Maritime refuge, is drawing up plans to wipe out Rat Island's rats. A formal proposal is expected in about a month, according to SOWLS.

The agency is trying to find an effective way to wipe out rat populations without harming other wildlife. Rat Island is a good starting point, according to biologists, for a removal program because it is small without much other wildlife.

Rats are a problem shared by remote islands all around the world. Biologists said successful rat removal programs have taken place in more than 250 islands including Campbell Island south of New Zealand and Langara Island in British Columbia.

"A lot of people go, 'Oh they're just rats, what's the big deal?'," said Ron Clarke, assistant wildlife conservation director at the Department of Fish and Game.

Once informed about the environmental destruction wrought by rats, citizens are generally determined to avoid them. Rats are blamed for causing about half the extinctions of various species worldwide since the 1600s and are persistent nuisances once established, said Clarke.

"They're very good swimmers. They'll eat anything. They're just very good at surviving," Clarke said.

SWEEPING RAT MANDATES

Alaska state officials have issued sweeping new regulations that slap rat-prevention mandates on Alaska ports and harbors that have served as entry points for invading rodents. The removal plan and new state regulations are extensions of previous anti-rat policies in Alaska.

Since the early 1990s, wildlife refuge managers have maintained a "rat-spill" program -- in which emergency responders prevent the spread of rats from shipwrecks -- similar to oil-spill contingency plans maintained by state and federal agencies.

"It's entirely possible that in a shipwreck situation, the environmental damage created by the introduction of rats into the environment would be even worse than that of a major oil spill," SOWLS said.

He cited the situation on the Aleutian island of Kiska, which still holds a colony of millions of auklets, a small seabird, but where introduced rats are decimating that natural population.

Researchers commonly find vast stretches on Kiska with no live birds, only rotting bodies stuffed into burrows.

"A lot of the birds you find, the only parts the rats eat are the eyeballs and the brains," SOWLS said. "It looks like, unless something is done in the next 20 to 40 years, that the rats will probably eliminate that colony."

Spiders, scorpions found in Manila mail

(AP)-The package from Hong Kong looked innocent enough, marked "personal clothing." But when customs officials opened it, they were stunned to see about 300 live scorpions and spiders.

The scorpions and spiders -- which included tarantulas -- were packed in nets, bottles and transparent plastic boxes, concealed under clothes, newspapers reported Wednesday.

"The scorpions almost bit the examiner," Nelson Ebio, a port collector at the Central Mail Exchange Center, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer. It was the first time the post office had encountered such poisonous mail, he said.

The Philippine Star daily quoted Ebio as saying the package arrived from Hong Kong on Monday, but it was not clear who sent it or why, though some specu-

lated they could have been intended for a collector of the creatures.

The spiders and scorpions were later handed over to the parks and wildlife office.

Steven Toledo, head of the office's rescue center, said the spiders and scorpions will be "taken care of" and possibly used in exhibitions. He said some of them were still juveniles.

World's most boring TV show to measure energy use

(Reuters)- Television manufacturers and broadcasters have produced what may be the world's most boring TV programme to measure energy consumption on new-generation televisions, an energy standards group said on Tuesday.

The aim is to have a standard way of measuring how much energy plasma and LCD TVs use, the Geneva-based International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) said in a statement.

If plasma and LCD TVs do use more energy than older televisions, that would push up demand for power and possibly affect climate change.

TV broadcasters and manufacturers edited together a mix of different genres spanning soap operas, nature programmes and sports, and assessed the proportion of broadcasting for each type of genre in the world, it said.

This is because the power needed by a television for the images varies according to the type of programme broadcast.

But the 10-minute programme is an incoherent compilation and lacks drama. It can be compared with the test patterns or test cards that used to be broadcast to allow viewers to tune their sets, IEC spokesman Dennis Brougham said.

"The images are supposed to be a representation of what we watch, but when you stick it together it doesn't make much sense," he told Reuters.

Reducing energy use per model by 25 percent by 2009 could save more than 10 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year in the United States alone, the IEC said.

The programme will be included in a new international standard from the IEC offering a way to measure power consumption and providing manufacturers with a way to provide accurate energy label ratings for consumers.

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